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AND SOME OF

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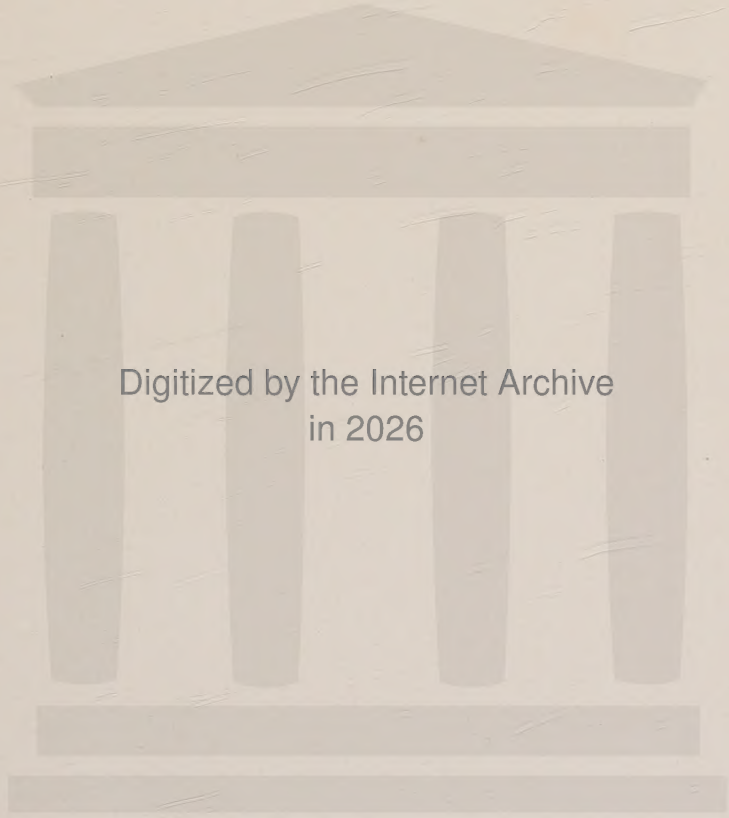

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Eleazer Franklin Pratt

PHINEHAS PRATT

AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

A Monograph

PREPARED BY

ELEAZER FRANKLIN PRATT.

BOSTON:
PRINTED FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION.
1897.

SINE
LABORE
NIHIL
T. R. MARVIN & SON
BOSTON MASS
PRINTERS
ESTABD 1834

IN LOVING MEMORY

OF

Eleazer Franklin Pratt,

THIS VOLUME

PREPARED FROM THEIR FATHER'S MANUSCRIPT

IS ISSUED BY HIS SONS

FRANKLIN STETSON PRATT AND

CHARLES HERBERT PRATT.

PRELUDE.

THE fortunate discovery by the late Mr. Pulsifer, of the greater portion of the original manuscript of "Phinehas Pratt's Narrative," among the ancient files of petitions and other documents at the Massachusetts State-house, where it had been quietly reposing for about two centuries, was a matter of great interest to the students of the history of the "Pilgrim Fathers" of New England. The late Dr. Alexander Young, of Boston, in his "Chronicles of the Pilgrims," published in 1841, mentions the fact that careful search had been made for it by Mr. Drake and other antiquarians, but in vain; and regretfully expressed the belief that it was hopelessly lost.

This is not the place to tell the story of that manuscript, to which frequent reference is made on the following pages; but some account of this will be found in the Appendix, prepared by the late Mr. Frothingham, where the old Narrative is printed verbatim, and to which the reader is referred.

The discovery of this Narrative, written by our ancestor, who was an active participant in the events which it records, and giving a vivid picture of the cradle days of the Plymouth Colony, no doubt served as the chief incentive to our father, to undertake the preparation of the historical portion of this volume; but the

authorities which were accessible, — Bradford, Winslow, and the rest — were consulted and used. Since his death, which occurred in October, 1888, other material has become available; the line of descent of Matthew Pratt, of Weymouth, was printed in 1889, in which the author endeavors to show — whether successfully or not, it is not within our province to determine — that the tradition that he was a descendant of Phinehas is erroneous.

As the genealogical portion of this volume was compiled after extensive correspondence, in which our father was engaged for a long period — many of the original letters he received being still in our possession, though some of their writers have deceased, — we have not thought it advisable to attempt any corrections or changes, either of names or dates, from the notes as he left them; for it would now be impossible, without going over the whole ground, to ascertain and verify the evidence which led him to the conclusions he carefully recorded.

The work has therefore been given as he left it. That it is incomplete in some lines, inasmuch as it had not received his final revision when he was taken away, may be admitted: but a limited edition has been printed for private circulation, in the belief that the story which he compiled of the events attending those early settlements, of the sufferings endured by our forefathers in those terrible winters, and the genealogical records of the family which he gathered, will be of interest and value to the descendants of the "old planter" who so chivalrously risked his life, alone in the wilderness, through pathless snows, in the cold of a dreary New England winter, to warn the colonists at Plymouth of their deadly peril from a savage foe.

FRANKLIN S. PRATT.
CHARLES H. PRATT.

BOSTON, June 1, 1897.

PHINEHAS PRATT

AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

ENROLLED among the "First Comers," "Old Comers," "Purchasers," or "Forefathers," of Plymouth Colony in New England, as they were variously termed by their contemporaries, are two men who bore the name of Pratt. These were Joshua and Phinehas, and they are supposed to have been brothers. Phinehas undoubtedly was the son of Henry. Tradition relates that the father of Henry was John, and that either John, or the father of John, was a Frenchman who bore the surname of Plat or Platt; having fled from France during some political excitement in that country, he became an "Armor-bearer" to the Monarch of England, and his name was subsequently changed to Pratt. Both names have the same significance, as we find from the terms Plate, Plateau, Pratum, etc., meaning a flat, level surface or meadow. Prat in Dutch signifies proud, arrogant, cunning or ingenious. We have in French, Platt; Italian, Piatto; Span-

ish, Prado ; Portuguese, Prado ; Danish, Plat ; German, Platt ; Swedish, Platt. All are evidently derived from the Latin root word *pratum*, a meadow.[1] Prat, Pratt, Prate, Pratte, in English, are supposed to have been derived from the same patronymic as Plate, or Platt, and similarly denote a plot of ground, or a plain, — De Pradt, "of the meadow."

There are several ancient English families of the name, each of them having a distinctive coat-of-arms,[2] none of which properly belong to the descendants of Phinehas. His, if traced, must be found among those of the Plats or Platts.

Henry Pratt, the father of Phinehas, for preaching the gospel contrary to the rules of the Established Church of England, and as a Nonconformist minister, was imprisoned at the same time that over four hundred religious teachers were confined in damp and gloomy jails in England for the same offence. While thus incarcerated, he managed to communicate with his distressed family, by writing to them with the blood which he drew from his arm for the purpose.[3]

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1 Near the popular part of the city of Rome the territory was named Prati di Castello, or Fields of the Castle.

2 "In the 10th century we find the first surnames, ... and in the 12th century armorial bearings as well as other heraldic devices, which long nourished the conceit of the nobles, and were valued by their descendants as marks of superior birth, to which all other superiority was considered subordinate."—Buckle, Hist. of Civilization.

3 Henry Pratt, of Cohasset, who was named in honor of the Nonconformist minister, often heard his grandmother, Abigail Pratt, who married the Rev. Jonathan Neal, relate this fact. In her widowhood she made his father's (Thomas Platt) house her home. She was the sister of Judge Benjamin Pratt, daughter of Aaron, and granddaughter of Phinehas. Her daughter was the cousin of Thomas, by the same father, but not by the same mother, as Aaron married twice. She was remarkably intelligent, and had a correct and very retentive memory.

Whether he died in jail, as many of those devout and wretched prisoners did, or was released and lived for a few years subsequently an incurable invalid in consequence, like scores of others, is now unknown.[2]

About this time nearly all the trade of England was monopolized by a few Companies, which for many years, under the grants of Patents to "Merchant Adventurers" and the like, had controlled all the foreign commerce of that country, excepting that of France. In fact, the whole trade of London was virtually confined to about two hundred persons, who were easily enabled to combine and fix whatever prices they pleased, both for the imports and exports of the nation; at the same time the people were remaining under some of the burdens of the old feudal tenures. Stimulating reports began to increase in circulation in England, describing the great success of some of the earliest Adventurers on the northeastern coast of America. Among others, Capt. John Smith was perhaps the most zealous disseminator of these. He travelled very extensively over England from A. D. 1617 to 1624, and published maps and books descriptive of his experience on the New England coast, and in Virginia, endeavoring to engage companies to organize for the occupation of a new commercial field, which he believed presented unsurpassed prospects of gain.

Among his own adventures, he related one in which over sixty thousand cod were taken in less than a month, by a small company which went with him to America; while some

2 Non-conformity dates from the refusal of Bishop Coverdale and other eminent Churchmen to subscribe to the Liturgy and ceremonies, about 1550.—Palfrey.

of the party were employed in fishing, he left the vessel, with eight others, in a small boat, and ranged the coast, where he obtained, for a few trifles, eleven hundred beaver skins, besides otters and martens, amounting in all to the value of fifteen hundred pounds ; and finally arrived safely in England with all his men in health, after an absence of six or seven months.

He also informed the people that the French who traded to the northward of him had returned to France that year with twenty-five thousand beaver-skins and other good furs, while the English people were contending about "patents" and "commissions," with such fearful incredulity "that more dazzled their eyes than opened them."

It was believed that, as an essential to permanent success, it was necessary to establish colonies, and obtain from the government a "patent," before taking the apprehended risk of residing in America. Fishing vessels were increasing in number, so much so, that by the year 1622 there went out from the west of England, for the coast of North America, some thirty-five sail. It was thought that if the fishermen could land their fish near where they were caught, and there have them dried and cured, it would be a great advantage ; the colonists who assisted them could be engaged in felling trees, and trading with the natives for beaver and other furs, when not employed with curing the fish, and thus afford some additional freight for homeward-bound voyages, and also furnish desirable resorts for mutual interchange and profit.

Thomas Weston, an influential merchant of London, England, became actively interested in forming a Company, with

the intention of establishing such a colony in America, to be located near the mouth of the Hudson River. It was his plan to organize several contributors of funds into a Company, of which he was to be treasurer and manager; these were to be the "London Branch;" while another party, who were to emigrate to America under written stipulations, were to be the other branch. The first party were to furnish the funds, the second to perform the specified labors, and become a joint co-partnership.

After much effort, Weston and a portion of the religious congregation of the Rev. John Robinson's society, then living in voluntary exile at Leyden, Holland, formed such an association for the purposes referred to. The preparation for the departure to America was conducted with little or no system, Weston frequently finding fault with the improper manner in which the business was carried on; and when finally the Mayflower and Speedwell were ready to put to sea, the passengers refused to sign the contract as it was understood by the London partners; some of those who had formerly agreed to contribute now withdrew, and absolutely refused to have any interest whatever in the undertaking. Weston had proceeded too far to withdraw himself, and reluctantly signed a different bill of specifications for an agreement, carefully concealing the fact from many of his associates, as he dared not inform them.[1]

1 The passengers needed about £100 to discharge their remaining indebtedness; Weston refused to advance another penny, and they were consequently obliged to dispose of three or four firkins of butter, which they had intended to carry with them as provisions, and which they believed they could well spare.

Thus began a serious rupture between Weston and the first settlers of Plymouth, in New England, which was never healed; although for a time, for prudential reasons, it was partly concealed from the world, yet it was destined eventually to break out into a painful, incurable malady. The colonists by the Mayflower, instead of proceeding to the mouth of the North River, as originally intended, landed at Cape Cod, and finally settled at a place called by the Indians Patuxet, which they of the Mayflower afterwards named Plymouth. Weston and his London partners, of course, knew nothing of their final destination until the Mayflower came back to England with the intelligence of the change of plans. The London Company was very much dissatisfied with the result, and Weston was highly indignant, as he afterwards wrote to Plymouth; yet at the same time he was so much involved in the adventure as to induce him to adopt, with his half-smothered sarcasm, in a letter he wrote the settlers, such conciliatory language as mercantile expediency might seem to justify.

A serious difficulty was now in the way in regard to further aid. Pecuniary gain was the expectation of the London Branch, but they had not received it. More passengers were anxious to join their friends, who had written home letters by the Mayflower, describing in glowing language the abundance of fish, fowl and deer, which were easily procured in their neighborhood. Weston appeared to be desirous of chartering another vessel for the second voyage, and also of assisting the passengers with money; but most of his Company refused to have anything more to do with what had

proved, contrary to their expectation, to be an unsuccessful, unpromising Plymouth Plantation. The Londoners told Weston that when they received some reimbursement for their outlay, but not before, they might advance more money to aid the settlers or their friends.

After much trouble, the Fortune, a small vessel of fifty-five tons, was hired at a very low rate to proceed to Plymouth, the owners hoping a full return freight from thence, on which they relied for their compensation. The Fortune accordingly left about the first of July, poorly supplied with very inferior provisions, and arrived at Plymouth, November 9th, 1621, with twenty-five or thirty passengers.

We have now two arrivals recorded at Plymouth, — the Mayflower and the Fortune. The next arrival at that place was a shallop from the ship Sparrow, lying in Damarins Cove, having lately reached that harbor from England; in this little vessel were ten men, who came to select a site for another Plantation; and PHINEHAS PRATT was one of that number. To this party we shall presently refer.

The discontent of Weston had increased, and eventually he discovered that some of the London friends of the Plymouth Company were carrying on a clandestine correspondence, and that they had sewed between the soles of a pair of shoes of a passenger by one of his vessels, a letter which was to be conveyed to Plymouth, directed to some of the leading men there, in which he was condemned in no measured terms by two or three of the most religious of the London party in this first undertaking.

Weston at once informed the Plymouth people, by letter, of his discovery, and the language used towards him, and called for an explanation. They in return excused the signers of the letter by imputing to them mistaken zeal as the motive. The whole history of Weston's dealings with the Plymouth Colony has not been revealed, but sufficient is published to show that he and his Company in London were influenced chiefly by commercial considerations ; that they had now lost money by their adventure, and were much disturbed thereby, — so much so, that they were at variance among themselves in that city.

Weston had good reason to believe that some of the parties in interest were hostile to him, but how many of them on both sides of the water were thus covertly engaged, he could not fully ascertain. He had previously written to Plymouth, promising that if all his friends should abandon their mutual enterprise he would never forsake them. He had good reason shortly after to withdraw this promise, for he discovered that bickerings and treachery towards him were indulged in to a considerable extent by his associates, and that it was high time for him to withdraw from them. In fact, the London members were greatly disturbed, charging him with gross deceit, and had covertly written of their dissatisfaction to the Plymouth people, as has been mentioned above.

Under such circumstances, the proper course for him to pursue was either to sell out his own interest in the Company, or to purchase theirs. It is a question whether the Plymouth people themselves would not have also abandoned

the enterprise, if most of them had not parted with their own little property before leaving their homes, and thereby, as a whole, had now no alternative left them than to remain and struggle for an existence.

The trouble was, that the commercial undertaking now appeared too discouraging, and Weston received from the contributors of funds more than his share of censure for the lack of success. Sorely chafed, he sold out his interest. Quite likely he had contributed to other adventures, and was evidently unable to control the management for the original subscribers in peace.

Soon after this, it appears that Weston was financially a ruined man. After disposing of his first adventure to Plymouth, we find he engaged with others in a new enterprise, and for this purpose sent the ship Sparrow, about the middle or last of January, 1621, O. S., on a fishing voyage to Damarins Cove,[1] off the State of Maine, then quite a rendezvous for English ships. On board of that vessel were ten men who had received instructions from him to proceed along the coast, and find a suitable location where another Colony could settle, and where, under more favorable auspices, a profitable business might be established, to mutual advantage. Some sixty "lusty men" were to follow, and occupy the ground selected and purchased by the previous ten men.

We here give quotations from the "Narrative," as written by Phinehas Pratt. This was found in the Massachusetts

1 The Damariscove islands, five or six in number, lie west by north from Monhegan. — Williamson's Maine, i. 56.

State House by David Pulsifer, Esq., of Boston, and was given by him to Richard Frothingham, Jr., of Charlestown, Mass., who caused it to be printed in the fourth volume of the Fourth Series of the Massachusetts Historical Society's Collections.[1] One hundred copies were also printed for private distribution. The original manuscript consists of three folio sheets sewed together, one-half of which appears to have been torn off after they were thus arranged, and hence a portion is lost.

FROM THE NARRATIVE.

Mr. Thomas Weſtorne, a Merchent of good credit in London, y^t^ was y^n^ thay^r^ treaſhurer, y^t^ had diſberſt much of his Mony for y^e^ good of New England, ſent forth a ſhip for y^e^ ſettleing a plantation in the Maſſachuſetts Bay, but wanting a pilote we Ariued att Demoralls Cove. The men y^t^ belong to y^e^ ſhip, ther fiſhing, had newly ſet up a may pole & weare very mery. We maed haſt to prepare a boat fit for coſting. Then ſaid Mr. Rodgers, Maſter of our ſhip, "heare ar Many ſhips & at Munhigin, but no man y^t^ does vndertake to be yo^r^ pilate; for they ſay y^t^ an Indian Caled Rumigin vndertook to pilot a boat to Plimoth, but they all loſt tha^r^ Lives." Then ſaid Mr. Gibbs Maſt^rs^ Mate of our ſhip, "I will venter my Liue, with y^m^." At this Time of our diſcouery, we firſt Ariued att Smithe's Ilands, firſt ſoe Caled by Capt. Smith, att the

1 The Narrative in full will be found in the Appendix. Drake and other antiquarians had long sought it without avail. Frequent use of this document, of which the substance has occasionally been taken without following the original form verbatim, has been made, in preparing this account of the circumstances attending the experiences of our ancestor in the early days of the Colony. Winslow's story, and other authorities, quoted by Rev. Dr. Young, in his Chronicles of the Pilgrims, have also been freely used.

Time of his diſcouery of New Eingland,....fterwards Caled Ilands of Sholes; ffrom thence to Cape Ann....ſo Caled by Capt. Maſon; from thence to y^e^ Mathechuſits Bay. Ther we continued 4 or 5 days.

Then we pſeaued, y^t^ on the ſouth part of the Bay, weare feweſt of the natives of the Cuntry Dwelling ther We thought beſt to begine our plantation, but fearing A great Company of Salvages, we being but 10 men, thought it beſt to ſee if our friends weare Living at Plimouth. Then ſayling Along the Coſt, not knowing the harber, thay ſhot of a peece of Ardinance, and at our coming Aſhore, thay entertaned vs with 3 vally of ſhotts.[1]

Pratt continues the narrative of his party in the shallop of the Sparrow, after they arrived in Plymouth Harbor, as follows. The colonists told him:—

They^r^ ſeckond ſhip was Reterned for Eingland before we came to y^m^. We aſked y^m^ wheare the Reſt of our freinds weare y^t^ came in the firſt ſhip. Thay ſaid y^t^ God had taken y^m^ Away by deth, & y^t^ before they^r^ ſeckond ſhip came, thay were ſoe deſtreſed with ſicknes y^t^ thay, feareing the ſavages ſhould know it, had ſett up thay^r^ ſick men with thay^r^ muſcits vpon thay^r^ Reſts & thay^r^ backs Leaning Aganſt trees.

1 "This boat proved to be a shallop, that belonged to a fishing ship called the Sparrow, set forth by Master Thomas Weston .... which brought six or seven passengers, [she really had ten passengers; the number seven was roughly stated by Winslow] .... that should before have been landed at our Plantation; who also brought no more provision for the present than served the boat's gang for their return to the ship; which made her voyage at a place called Damarins Cove .... some forty leagues [off from Plymouth] northeastward; about which place there fished about thirty sail of ships."—Winslow in Young's Chronicles, p. 293.

When this shallop was seen approaching Plymouth, it seems that those on board were supposed to be Frenchmen, and a sentinel, who was posted on an eminence overlooking the harbor, shot off a cannon to summon the inhabitants to meet an apprehended enemy. Those on the boat, however, managed to announce themselves as Englishmen before they landed, and received a friendly salute from the firearms of the assembled colonists. This was about the latter end of May, A. D. 1622.[1]

After a few days, the boat and her crew left Plymouth, guiding another one, which belonged to the Plantation, to the ships which were fishing at Damarins Cove, where Winslow and others of the planters procured from these ill-provisioned vessels supplies they could not well afford to spare, and for which the generous crews refused any compensation whatever, saying they were sorry they could give so little. The food thus obtained helped the Plymouth people so much as to enable them to give a small portion to each inhabitant.[2]

1 "About the end of May, 1622 . . . our store of victuals was wholly gone."— [Winslow in Young's Chronicles.] The people of Plymouth were then very destitute of provisions, "they having lived long before with a bare and short allowance. The reason was that supply of men [who came in the Fortune] unprovided, not landing so much as a barrel of bread or meal for their whole company, but contrariwise received from us for their ship's store homeward. Neither were the setters-forth thereof altogether to be blamed therein, but rather certain amongst ourselves, who were too prodigal in their writing and reporting of that plenty we enjoyed." — Winslow, *ibid*, p. 292.

2 The language of Pratt vaguely implies that only one or two of the number of those who went with them from Plymouth visited the fishing ships. The probability is that a majority of the boat's crew that accompanied the shallop back to Damarins Cove remained as guests on board the Sparrow, while Winslow, and perhaps one or two others, were piloted about and introduced by Capt. Huddleston to the masters of the

The planters had learned the way to the fishing grounds by this boat of the Sparrow, and were now greatly encouraged by the fact. The ten men by the Sparrow's boat returned to their ship, as they did not dare, with so small a number, begin to make arrangements for the settlement at that time of a place named by the Indians Wessagusset, nor could they remain with the starving people of Plymouth. Necessity compelled them to flee to the Sparrow, and there to wait a reasonable time for the arrival of the Charity and Swan at Plymouth, which, says Winslow, occurred about the last of June or the beginning of July.[1]

The men who came from the fishing ship brought the following letter to Plymouth, the substance of which had been communicated to the fleet at Damarins Cove :

To all his good friends at Plimouth, Theſe &c. Friends, Countrymen & Neighbours, I ſalute you and wiſh you all health & happineſs in y^e^ Lord. I Make bould with theſe few lines to trouble you, becauſe unleſs I were inhuman I can doe no leſs. Bad news doth ſpread itſelfe too farr, Yet I will ſo farr inform^e^ you that myſelf with many good friends in y^e^ South Collonie of Virginia have received ſuch a blow that four hundred perſons large will not make good our loſſes. Therefore I doe entreate you (altho' not knowing you) that the old rule which I learned when I went to ſchoole may

other ships, and were thus provided for from them, after which Winslow and the other representatives of the Colony returned to Plymouth. The whole of the boat's crew was furnished by the Plymouth Colony, as appears in the latter part of Pratt's Narrative. "We learnt the way to these parts for our future benefit by this voyage."—Prince.

1 A comparison of the various accounts leads me to believe that this arrival was probably late in July or early in August.

be ſufficiente. That is, Hapie is he whom other mens harmes doth make to beware, and now againe, and againe wiſhing all thoſe y^t willingly would ſerve y^e Lord all health and happineſs in this world, and everlaſting peace in y^e world to come, and ſo I reſt.

yours JOHN HUDDLESTON.

The writer of this letter[1] was the master of a ship which had recently arrived at the fishing resort for the purpose of fishing, having previously been to Virginia; he took this method to introduce the story of the alarming massacre by the Indians of the white settlers there, but left the boat's crew to detail such other incidents of the affair as were verbally communicated to them by him. Among other letters by this boat was one written by Weston, dated January 12, 1621, O. S.,[2] informing the Plymouth planters that two ships would soon leave London under his direction, with settlers, who were to commence a new plantation near theirs. He requests the Plymouth people to entertain them while there, as provision would be made for their reception at a place not far distant, so soon as they were able to remove from

1 His name is given as Hudston by some; it was through his kindly aid that Winslow obtained the provisions. See Young, p. 293, note.

2 In 1752 the New Style became legal and universal, both in Catholic and Protestant countries. According to the Old Style, the year began on the 25th of March, popularly termed "Lady Day," or by the Church, "The Feast of the Annunciation," while under the New Style it began on January 1. This change, with other corrections of the calendar, took place in Roman Catholic countries in the latter part of the 16th century, through the influence of Pope Gregory XIII, but it was not adopted in England or its Colonies until 1752, when, by Act of Parliament in that year, it was ordered that eleven days should be omitted, so that the day following the 2nd of September should be called September 14, agreeably to the New Style. January, 1621, therefore fell in 1622, by our present mode of reckoning.

Plymouth ; this site was not then fully known by Weston, but he thought it probably would be some small island off the coast of New England. He assured the Plymouth people that he would reciprocate their courtesy, and pay them fully for any labor or expense they might have been at, on this last account. He asked especially for a small supply of salt, until the passengers by the Charity and Swan were in a condition to manufacture their own.

They left England about the 16th of April, 1622, and about the last of July or the first of August the Charity and the Swan reached Plymouth, with sixty able-bodied men [1] ; but when they arrived they were nearly all afflicted with the scurvy, which they had contracted on their three months' voyage hither,—a disease very common in those days among passengers as well as seamen. The Plymouth people entertained them with such as they had, to the extent of their ability. Of the new-comers, the few who were able, and could be spared, assisted the planters in their fields and otherwise, while the remainder were frequently going to and from Wessagusset, making the best arrangements they could for the reception and habitation of their comrades as soon as they should be sufficiently recovered from their diseased condition to occupy the place. All, in fact, were anxiously waiting for an opportunity to leave their kind friends, and begin for themselves a plantation where they expected, from

1 "1622. There went from the west of England to fish, five and thirty sail, on the coast of North America . . . . Two from London, with sixty persons for them at New Plymouth."—John Smith's "Advertisement." This date of arrival is not precisely fixed ; Winslow puts it a month earlier, as on page 19, *supra*.

their physical strength, to be able to accomplish a more profitable business than their predecessors at Plymouth.

The corn was now ripening in the fields.[1] The half-starved company of Weston had some among their number who could not resist the temptation of stealing and eating the inviting grain. The Plymouth people detected some of them trespassing thus, and had them severely whipped, for what an old chronicler termed "a few caps of corn."

The season was now so far advanced that it was too late to plant for a harvest.[2] It was certainly the last of September before the Weston people had all begun to live at Wessagusset,[3] which had been bought of Aberdesest,[4] an Indian chief, for their home. Here a few huts were erected. The small ship, the Swan, was left with them for coasting purposes, and a portion of the company lived on board of her while at Wessagusset. The Plymouth people, after a while, engaged with them in an adventure in the neighbor-

1 "At the end of August, 1622, arrived the Ship Discovery, Capt. Jones, and the Sparrow, Capt. Rogers, at Plymouth." Whether Phinehas Pratt remained on board of the latter vessel until this time, we have no means of knowing. We learn by his Narrative that, in company with Winslow, he had returned to the Sparrow in the shallop, and he probably remained with her until her arrival at Plymouth; the date of this arrival must have been very near to September. The Sparrow and the Discovery then left Plymouth and proceeded to Virginia, whither they carried passengers.

2 It was during the latter part of the summer that the Charity returned to Plymouth from Virginia, and it was near the beginning of October when she departed for England, taking as she went out of Plymouth Bay the greater part of Weston's company, which she landed at Wessagusset. — Winslow in Young's Chronicles, p. 299.

3 This plantation was to be under the direction of Richard Greene, a brother-in-law of Weston. He died at Plymouth in the autumn of 1622. — Ibid.

4 These Indian names are spelled in several different ways by the same writers. No attempt at uniformity has therefore been made.

hood of Cape Cod, Weston's party putting the Swan and some of the crew at their disposal. An equitable distribution of the proceeds was to be made, if these should be found sufficient to recompense them; and if not, the Plymouth people were to be compensated as soon as the Wessagusset people should receive aid from Weston.

Some corn was obtained by this short voyage, for the Plymouth people had introduced the use of the hoe among the Indians, and had previously bargained for their expected crops. The proceeds of the voyage were reasonably divided among the two colonies when the Swan returned to Plymouth. Winter was fast approaching, and it was too great a risk for the Swan to visit the coast any later at this season, for she was in danger of being imprisoned, in the small bays, or obstructed from entering them, by the ice. A dreary time was now in store for the "lusty men" of Wessagusset. The fishing season was over; they had little or no salt,[1] for the salt-pan with which they intended to make it had, by some strange fatality, been overlooked, and the accident was not discovered till about the time they needed it; they therefore had not the means to preserve fish, fowl, or animal food for their future use, and, like their predecessors at Plymouth, they were consequently obliged to subsist principally on corn, ground-nuts, clams and mussels. One or two of the number deserted them, and adopted the manners of the Indians; their clothing had been much exposed, and was fast wearing

1 Capt. John Sears, of Suet, was the first person in this country who obtained pure marine salt by solar evaporation alone. This was in 1776, when, on account of the American Revolution, salt was scarce and dear.

out. During one of the few remaining months at Wessagussett, John Sanders, one of the Weston Company, who by the death of Greene, Weston's brother-in-law, had become the leader, sent to Plymouth for advice[1] in regard to seizing from the Indians corn enough to support the colony until he could procure a supply from the fishing vessels, which were expected at Damarins Cove during the month of March. The Plymouth people dissuaded him from this measure, giving him a little corn, but hardly enough to sustain the boat's crew which went with him, seeking to find some ships, although it was a little too early to expect much success.

When the savages discovered the destitute condition of the English, they began to employ insulting taunts and gestures, giving unmistakable hints of their future bloody designs. Pecksuoth, one of their principal chiefs, inquired, "Why do your men and dogs die?" Pratt replied to him that he had in reserve corn for the time of need; in order to deceive him more effectually, he took a large chest, which was nearly filled with concealed substances, and over these he spread sufficient Indian corn to give it the appearance of being entirely filled with that grain; he then contrived to have the chief see the same, as if by accident; and then, as

1 February, 1623, New Style. "An Indian comes from John Sanders, the overseer of the Weston men at Massachusetts, with a letter showing the great wants they were fallen into; that having spent all their bread and corn, would have borrowed a hogshead of the natives, but they would lend him none. He desired advice whether he might take it by force to support his men till he should return from Munhiggen, where he is going to buy bread of the ships which come there fishing. The Governor of Plymouth dissuaded him, and Sanders obtains sufficient corn from the Plymouth people to enable him to proceed to Munhiggen."— Prince.

if disposed to hide the treasure from the observation of the Indian, Pratt sprang hastily and shut down the cover, pretending that he did not wish to have the man see its contents. The astonished native said, "No Indian so; you have much corn, and Englishmen die for want."

About this time the Indians removed their wigwams to the vicinity of a great swamp which was near to the paling that enclosed the dwellings of the Wessagusset Plantation. Pratt narrates that: "One morning I saw a man going into one of the Indian wigwams, who appeared to be weary with travelling and galled on his feet. Then he said to Mr. Salsbury, the Company's chyrurgeon: 'Surely their Sachem hath employed him for some intent to make war with us.'[1] "Then I took a Bagg with gunpowder, and putt it in my pockitt, with the Top of the bagg hanging out and went to y^{e} howse whear the man was lying vpon a matt. The woman of the howse took hold of the bagg saying 'What is this soe bigg?' I said 'It is good for Salvages to eat.' Then she said, 'Matchet — Powder, Englishmen much matchet. Bye and bye Abordecest bring much mans, much sannops, and kill you and all men at Wassagussett and Patuckset.' The man that was lying upon the mat hearing this was very angry and in a great rage, and the woman seemed to be sore afraid. Then I went out of their house and said to a young man who could best understand their language, 'Go, ask the woman, but not in the man's hearing, why the man was angry, and

1 "During the year 1614 Thomas Hunt, an Englishman, had kidnapped from Plymouth twenty Indians and seven from Cape Cod, and sold them as slaves in Spain." (Mourt's Relation.) The Indians had not forgotten this.

she afraid?' Our interpreter coming to me said, 'These are the words of the woman. The man will tell Abordecest what I said, and he and all Indians will be angry with me.'"

Pecksuoth one day said to Pratt, "Me love you." Pratt replied, "Me love you; me love you as much as you love me." The chief said in broken English, "Me hear that you can make the likeness of men and woman, dogs and deers, in wood and stone." He then showed Pratt a knife with the ugly face of a man carved upon its handle, saying, "This knife cannot see, cannot hear, cannot speak, but it can eat." He said he had another knife at home with a woman's face carved upon the handle. "This knife had killed many Frenchmen; by and by the two knives should marry, and you shall be there." Pratt was very much excited at the threat which was evidently intended, and felt inclined to plunge the knife into its owner, who said, "I see that you are much angry." He received in reply the remark that "Guns are longer than knives."

A short time after this interview one of the Indian Sachems, accompanied by a large number of armed men, made a sudden appearance in the neighborhood of the colonists' enclosure; but on sending out their spies they found the English in readiness to receive them. Their chief men, learning this to be the case, went into one of the Indian huts, where they remained about a quarter of an hour. The colonists, by delegated leaders, then met them outside their paling, and brought them within the gates: here Pratt acted as one of their spokesmen, and, through a young man who understood their language, desired to know of Pecksuoth why

they came thus armed. The interpreter said, "Our Sachem is angry with you." Pratt told him to say to the Indians that "If he was angry with the English, the English were angry with him!" Then the savage replied: "Englishmen, when you came into the country we gave you gifts, and you gave us gifts. We bought and sold with you, and we were friends; and now tell me if I or any of my men have done you wrong." The colonists answered through their own interpreter, "First tell us if *we* have done *you* any wrong." He answered: "Some of the English people have stolen the Indians' corn, and I have sent you word times without number, and yet our corn continues to be stolen; and now I come to find out what you intend to do." The English replied: "It is one man who did it; your men have seen us whip him divers times, besides other manner of punishment, and now he is here bound; we give him to you, to do with him as you please." Their leader answered: "It is not just dealing; if my men wrong my neighbor Sachem or his men, he sends me word, and I beat or kill my men according to the nature of the offence. If his men wrong me or my men, I send him word; he beats or kills his men accordingly. All Sachems do justice by their own men; if not, we say that they are all agreed, and then we fight; and now I say you all steal my corn;"—thus, Indian-like, making the whole community responsible for the acts of each and every member of it.

Here was a serious dilemma. What could the starving men of Wessagusset do with the offender? How far he was by relationship connected with any of the others, if at all, or how far his physical strength was needed for the defence of

the company, we know not, — and here it seems proper to say that the burlesque of Hudibras on these colonists, and the stories of Thomas Morton, in the New English Canaan, on which it may have been based, are in keeping with the other slanders of a wag, whose principal motive seems to have been the indulgence of fun at the expense of truth and justice.

The Weston people had erected a fort, and had armed it according to their best ability ; but they were obliged to place more men there than they could furnish with food. This necessity soon exhausted all the provisions they could collect. The Indians, ever vigilant, would stealthily creep about the place in the snow, sneaking behind bushes and trees, and watching to see whether the English had a sufficient guard or not to protect themselves from assault. Pratt says of himself that he often went round the plantation as a sentinel until his strength was entirely exhausted, owing to his famished condition. He tells us that "One night going into our court of guard, I saw one man dead before me, another at my right hand, and another at my left, for want of food," literally starved to death. And then he piously exclaims, "O all y^{e} people in New Eingland, y^{t} shall heare of these times, of our weak beginning, consider what was the strength of the Arm of flesh, or the witt of man ; therfor in the times of yo^{r} greatest distres, put yo^{r} trust in God."[1]

1 Winslow says, in writing of the Plymouth people: "For our own parts our case was almost the same with theirs [Weston's Company], having but a small quantity of corn left, and we were enforced to live on ground-nuts, clams, mussels, and such other things as naturally the country afforded."— Ibid, p. 329.

The man who stole the corn from the Indians was for a time kept bound, but as they were without food to supply him, they finally loosed him, charging him to gather ground-nuts, clams and mussels, as the others did, and cautioning him to steal no more. A day or two after this the savages caught him after he had committed another theft, and, leading him to the English, said: "Here is the corn, come and see the place where he stole it." To satisfy the natives, the colonists eventually caused him to be executed in their presence.[1]

Two of the Weston people, shortly after, visited the Sachem's camp, and discovered that the natives had finished the last of a number of canoes,[2] with which they might successfully attack the Swan, which was then in the harbor, and that they were also preparing to make a simultaneous attack upon them and the Plymouth Colony. The snow was an obstacle in the way of their sending a force to Plymouth at once. When the paths would permit, they would be ready for war.

1 Pratt says that in order to content the savages after Sanders' departure, the Weston people had hung one who stole the Indians' corn. — Prince.

2 Winslow says that two of Weston's Company assisted the Indians in making these canoes; another of the Company adopted a savage mode of life, and one died from exhaustion while engaged in digging clams. He also says that oysters were plentiful at Wessagusset, "which we wanted," but does not clearly say they were accessible in winter, though "clams and such other things as naturally the country afforded ..... were easy to be gotten" by the natives; nor does he deign to give any reason why the starving people at Plymouth did not get a supply from so short a distance, when they had undertaken more hazardous voyages in pursuit of corn; admitting that at this time the Weston colony were mostly diseased and weak, and that some of them were obliged to sell a portion of their bedding for a little food. — See Winslow in Young's Chronicles, p. 329.

The Wessagusset settlers made the best preparation they could for the emergency. Every entrance save one to the palings which protected their town was now closed.[1] Under these circumstances, a handful of starving men could offer but a feeble resistance to the hundreds of warriors who might be gathered from the neighboring tribes, who, if united, could easily exterminate both colonies in a very short time. Luckily this union among the different savage peoples had not heretofore existed, but, as was afterwards demonstrated, it did not require much to induce them to join in one hostile band, and to regard as enemies the whole white race, their neighbors.

Pratt became quite uneasy, and told his company that if some messenger from them did not inform the Plymouth people of their condition, all of both colonies would be slain. The Indians were waiting only that the snow might disappear. Pratt says that he would have sent a man to Plymouth, but none were willing to take the hazard. In the meantime, Pecksuoth asked Pratt for guns and powder, telling him that he would give much corn in exchange. Finding none of his countrymen could be persuaded to go to Plymouth, he told them, shortly after, that if God was willing, he would go thither himself. One of his company heedlessly or treacherously told Pecksuoth of his plan during the following night. The next morning, very early, that chief came to him and said in English: "Me heare you goe to Patuxit; you will loose yo^{r} self; y^{e} bears and the wolfs will eate you; but because I love you I will send my boy Nahamit with you, and

1 Ibid, p. 326.

I will give you vicktualls to eat by y^e^ way, & to be mery w^th^ yo^r^ freinds when you Com there."

This disinterested kindness was duly appreciated; but in reply to Pratt's inquiry respecting his informant, the chief refused to tell, but he immediately ordered five armed men to watch the movements of Pratt. When these were asked why they came armed, they replied that they were friends; but as the English took their guns with them while they were visiting the natives, they in return came with bows and arrows. These men remained on the watch for seven or eight days and nights, and then, supposing that they were mistaken in their suspicions, began to be careless towards morning. Then said Pratt to his companions, "Now is the time to run to Plymouth; is there any compass to be found?" They told him none but those which belonged to the ship. He replied, "They are too big." As he had gone unarmed during the seven or eight days while they were watching him, he was afraid that if he now took his weapons with him, the wary savages would mistrust his purpose, and therefore he carried none. His companions said, "The savages will pursue after you, and kill you, and we shall never see you again." Thus, with other words of great lamentation, they parted.

Pratt then took a hoe and went towards the long swamp, pretending that he was searching for ground-nuts.[1] Cau-

1 Ground-nuts — what commonly goes by that name — are a kind of bean, varying in size from that of a musket ball to that of a hen's egg, and when boiled or roasted are mealy and not unpalatable. The potato was then but little known by any European, and by none of the Indian tribes of North America.

tiously looking around and discovering no one in sight, he embraced the opportunity and ran through the swamp in a southerly direction till about three o'clock in the afternoon. As he had to pass over the snow in many places, he was very uneasy lest his tracks might betray his course. As the sun became clouded he wandered, not knowing his way, but was cheered when he again obtained a glimpse of the sun as it was going down, quite red. The wolves began their howling as night drew on, and a river, obstructed with many stones, intercepted his way ; the water being quite deep and very cold, he passed over it with much difficulty. Then, to use his own language, "was I in great distress — ffaint for want of ffood, weary with Running, ffearing to make a ffier because of y^m y^t pshued me. Then I came to a depe dell or hole, ther being much wood falen into it. Then said I in my thoughts, this is God's providence that heare I may make a fier. Then having maed a fier, the stars began to a pear and I saw Ursa Major." After having warmed himself, he began to be apprehensive lest the following day might be cloudy ; he therefore started off in the night, to be guided by the stars, but being unable to proceed through the pathless woods in the darkness, was obliged to return and wait until "day fall," when happily the sun shone. Tradition says that when he crossed the patches of snow, he walked backwards, hoping to deceive his pursuers.

He now kept on until he came to Plymouth Bay, which he reached about three o'clock in the afternoon, at that part which was soon after known as Duxbury. Hurriedly passing along, with the Bay on his left, he came to a brook, where

he found a path ; having but a short time to consider, and fearing this would lead him beyond Plymouth, he kept up a running speed to a point where he was obliged to cross James River. He said in his thoughts, "Now am I as a deare Chased . . . [by] the wolfs. If I perish, what will be the Condish . . . of distressed Einglish men."

Soon after this he picked up two articles which indicated that he was not far from civilized inhabitants, and took them, believing, as he tells us, that "God hath giuen me these two tookens for my Comfort." He now felt assured that his life would be spared, and, running down a hill, he soon met an Englishman in the path approaching him. Being very weary, he sat down upon a fallen tree. As the man came to meet him, Pratt arose to salute him and said, "Mr. Hamdin, I am glad to see you aliue." (It was Mr. John Hamden.)[1] He rejoined, "I am Glad and full of wonder to see you aliue ; lett us sitt down, — I see you are weary." Pratt was then desirous to eat some parched corn, which he probably had brought with him in the pack which was on his back.

Hamden told him he knew the cause of his coming ; that Massasoit had given notice to the Governor of Plymouth of the intended conspiracy to destroy in one day the inhabitants of both plantations. The next day a young man (Hugh Stacey) went forth to fell a tree, when he saw two Indians rising from the ground, where they had lain concealed. They told him that Aberdecest had sent them to the Governor to ask that he would send men to truck for much beaver ; notwithstanding this statement, they would not go to the Gov-

1 As to who this "Mr. Hamdin" was, see note on p. 314 of Young's Chronicles.

ernor, thus proving their lame excuse a falsehood. They then made further inquiries, which revealed their object: "Was not ther an Einglish . . . Come from Wesaguscus?" [1] Stacey answered that one had come. They said he was their friend, and then they skulked off. It afterwards appeared that when Pratt was missed by the savages at Wessagusset, these two Indians went in pursuit of him, and as he did not know a foot of the way to Plymouth, he was actually lost,[2] and took a wrong direction, whereby he eluded his pursuers; had he taken the right course, he would undoubtedly have been intercepted and slain.

The time of his arrival was March 24, 1623. On the day before, which was the yearly court day at Plymouth, their Governor made the conspiracy known to his people, and asked the advice of those present in regard to their making war upon the Indians. They referred the matter back to the Governor, his Assistants, and Miles Standish.

Under the guise of a trading party Standish left Plymouth a few days later, accompanied by some eight or ten men, refusing to take more for fear that it might excite the suspicion of the natives. He found that a portion of the Weston colony were living on board the Swan and separated under three divisions. Firing a gun to call them, the settlers hastened to him. He threatened instant death to any one

1 Sometimes spelled Wessagusset and Wessagusquasset. In 1633 this place was described as "very pleasant, and healthful. Very good ground. Well timbered and hath good store of Hay ground. Hath a spacious harbor for shipping before the town. The salt Water being navigable for boats and pinnaces two leagues. Here is likewise an Alwife River."— Wood's "New England Prospect," p. 31, Ed. 1635.

2 "The savage who pursued Pratt missed him but little and went to Manomet, and returning to Plymouth was secured."— Prince, and Winslow as cited, p. 338.

who should disclose his plan. His object was to slay the two principal chiefs when together; these were Pecksuoth and Wittawaumet. After a delay of some days he succeeded in getting them into a hut, as if to make the preliminaries of a barter trade; the door was fastened within, and he then snatched the knife which was suspended from the neck of one of them, and, after a dreadful scuffle, succeeded in slaying him, and his men killed the other on the same spot; one or two others were also killed. The party then returned to Plymouth with the head of Wittawaumet, where they set it up on a pole in the fort, to terrify the surrounding savages, who until now had believed that these two chiefs were invulnerable.

Pratt says that nine of his company had died with famine, two were slain by the Indians, and one died on his way to the fishing ships after the colony abandoned the town, leaving some forty or fifty persons, who prepared to remove, and these "were very much swollen." The great body of the Weston people soon after this left Wessagusset by their ship, and proceeded in search of the vessels at their usual fishing place, and this is the winding up of that plantation.[1] Pratt

1 Winslow says of them, after they had been denounced by some of his contemporaries: "I would not be understood to think there were no well-deserving persons among them; for of mine knowledge it was a grief to some that they were so yoked; whose deserts, as they were then suitable to their honest protestations, so I desire still may be in respect of their just and true Relations." — Winslow in Young's Chronicles, p. 276.

Christopher Levett, who published in England an account of his voyage to North America, says that two of the Weston company, who left Wessagusset, lived on his plantation; he tells us, "They neither applied themselves to planting of corn nor taking of fish, more than for their present use, but went about neglecting the plentiful time of fishing; when winter came, their forts would not keep out hunger, and they having no

was ill for a few days from the effects of his journey and his famished condition; having recovered, he says he "then went to his company at Piscataquis," which was under the direction of David Thomson.[1] While there he met two Indians who now belonged to the tribe under Abordecest, the chief who had succeeded Wittawaumet and Pecksuoth, who told him that when the two Englishmen taken at Wessagusset, at the time of Standish's fight, were killed, "they cried and made ill-favored faces." Pratt answered him that when "the English took Indian prisoners they did not torment them nor were merry over them."

The next we hear of Phinehas Pratt's residence is at Plymouth, and this is not many weeks after he informs us that he was at Piscataquis. Joshua Pratt, who we believe was the brother of Phinehas, and like him was an unmarried man when he came to try his fortune in America, arrived in the Ann,[2] in the summer of 1623. Most of those who came in this

provision before-hand, and wanting both powder and shot to kill deer and fowl, many starved to death and the rest hardly escaped." ("Voyage into New England begun in 1623, and ended 1624.") He should have remembered that the planting season was over when that company arrived in July or August, — a time so late that some of them were accused of pilfering the ripening corn. In regard to their not securing sufficiency of fish, etc., it did not occur to him that they had little or no salt, or the means of manufacturing it. See Collections of the Mass. Hist. Soc'y, 3d Series, Vol. VIII.

1 David Thomson, a Scotchman, attempted a plantation at the mouth of the Piscataqua (now Portsmouth), A. D. 1623, under the auspices of John Mason, but soon became discouraged, and removed to the island in Boston Harbor, since known as Thomson's Island.

2 The Ann and the Little Jane arrived at Plymouth in July or August, 1623, with a number of passengers; Joshua assisted in surveying the land in Plymouth. The Little Jane was intended to remain with the Colony for trading purposes, along the coast. Joshua Pratt died at Plymouth about 1656. The inventory of his estate is dated Oct. 6, of that year. His widow was Bathsheba ——— She married as her second husband, August 29, 1669, John Dogget, of Martha's Vineyard.

vessel and the Little Jane were friends and relatives of the Plymouth settlers.

We find that during this year (1623) there was a division of the land at Plymouth, under three heads, viz. : — to those who came by the Mayflower, the Fortune, and the Ann; among the latter "comers" there were assigned to Joshua Pratt and Phinehas Pratt, jointly, two acres. As Phinehas did not come by either of these vessels, the probability is that, for the purpose of making the division complete under three classes, he was put down with Joshua, for the reason that he was probably his brother, as already mentioned, the record for convenience being so arranged. It is quite likely that Phinehas had returned to Plymouth by some fishing vessel, soon after the time he is found at Piscataqua; and in all probability he was soon expecting Joshua would meet him. During this year there was a terrible scarcity of food at Plymouth, and much suffering among all the inhabitants. It is stated that the women of all ranks among the Plymouth people went into the fields to plant and cultivate corn, taking their little ones with them.

In 1624 the settlers of Plymouth were divided into twelve companies of thirteen persons each. Joshua and Phinehas were assigned to Francis Cook, joined to his wife Hester Cook; to this company was apportioned the last of the four black heifers which came over in the Jacob, and two she-goats. In this record of the division of the cattle it is believed that the name of every individual then living at Plymouth was given. The town now contained about thirty-two dwellings, and was impaled about half a mile in compass. This year not one of the first planters died.

In 1629, says Bradford, the poor people of Plymouth who had now become involved in new pecuniary obligations to an oppressive amount, were but too happy not only to defray all the expenses of the new comers but also to give them dwellings, and support them with food for more than a year till there was time for them to make provision for themselves. Another party of Leyden people presently came over, and the two companies cost their Plymouth friends five hundred and fifty pounds sterling, for their outfit and transportation from Holland, in addition to the expense of their reception and support till the second following harvest.

In 1630, Phinehas married Mary Priest, who was the daughter of Digerie (or Diggory) Priest, and Sarah his wife; Sarah had survived her husband and had now married for her third husband Cuthbert Cuthbertson, or Godbert Godbertson as he was sometimes called, a pious Hollander who joined Robinson's church at Leyden, and came to Plymouth in the ship Ann. Priest died in the "great sickness," January 1, 1621, N. S. He was one of the signers of the Compact on board of the Mayflower, having left his wife and children behind. His wife Sarah was a sister of Isaac Allerton, who was chosen Assistant Governor with Bradford from A. D. 1621 till 1624. He was perhaps the wealthiest as he was one of the most influential of the Plymouth Colony. Priest married her when she was a widow; he was admitted a citizen of Leyden, Holland, in November, 1615, Isaac Allerton "guaranteeing for him" upon his admission to civic rights in that city. During 1619 Priest's deposition was taken there, in which he says he was forty years of age.

Sarah, the widow of Digerie Priest, had two daughters by him, Sarah and Mary, sometimes spelled Marra. I have not been able to learn by what vessel these three came to America. The daughter of Digerie and Sarah, also a Sarah, married John Come or Coombe, who is styled "gentleman" on the Old Colony records; her name is frequently spelt Sara, or Zara. Cuthbertson, or Godbertson, was a widower when he married Mrs. Sarah Priest who had twice been a widow, as appears above, her first husband having been a Vincent, of London. Cuthbertson had, by a former marriage, one son, Samuel. The historians of Plymouth Colony are therefore mistaken when they state that Phinehas Pratt married the daughter of Cuthbertson; she was in fact his step-daughter.

There are numerous documents on the old records, and some which have come to our knowledge from other sources, extending over a period of several years, in which mention is made of our ancestor. Some of these we shall next quote, with such comments as will throw light on the family relationship and the residence, property, and occupation of Phinehas Pratt and his immediate connections. The first of these is a deed, dated 1633: —

Whereas Phinehas Pratt, joyner, in behalf of his wife Marah is possessed of thirty acres of land near unto the high cliff. The said Phinehas and Marah have exchanged the fee simple thereof with Mr. Thomas Prince[1] for other thirty acres of land at Winslow

1 Thomas Prince came in the Fortune in 1621, and was the fourth Governor of Plymouth.

Stand and next adjoining to another portion of land belonging to said Phinehas. But whereas there is a brook within the said thirty acres thus exchanged and acknowledged by mutual consent whereat John Coombe, gentleman, may freely make use of it, it is granted to him, his heirs or assigns provided he so makes use of said water as Phinehas be not annoyed thereby, but either by convenient enclosure at the cost of said John or otherwise shall save harmless the said Phinehas and his heirs from any detriment that shall or may befall them, the said Phinehas and Marah, their heirs and assigns.

At this time Coombe also exchanged thirty acres of land for thirty more, so that he and Phinehas had sixty acres in exchange for other sixty acres, which had belonged respectively to their wives, Sarah and Mary, whether an inheritance from Priest or Cuthbertson, does not appear. One acre given to Pratt, and one to Coombe at another time, was afterwards confirmed by the Court. It may be that the sisters resided on adjoining lots.

Cuthbertson and his wife Sarah died in 1633. Plymouth was then visited by an "infectious fever," of which "very many fell dangerously sick, and upwards of twenty persons died, men and women, besides children and sundry of them of the ancient friends who had lived in Holland." In this list of mortality was included Samuel Fuller, their physician and surgeon, who also was the deacon of their Church.

October 28, 1633, "At a General Court Phinehas Pratt was referred to a further hearing about the goods of Godbert Godbertson and Sarah his wife." John Done (Doane) and Stephen Hopkins took an inventory of the property.

November 11, "At a Court of Assistants Phinehas Pratt was appointed to take into his possession all the goods of Godbert Godbertson and Sarah his wife."

November 25, At a Court of Assistants it was ordered that "Whereas Godbert Godbertson and Sarah his wife died indebted more than their estate amounted unto, Mr. William Bradford was appointed to administer in behalf of the Court."

The following from the Old Colony Records, December, 1633, gives some facts relative to his administration: —

"Whereas, Mr. William Bradford was appointed in the behalf of the Court to enter upon the estate of Godbert Godbertson and Sarah his wife, and to discharge the debts of the said Godbertson as far as his estate will make good, and whereas the greater part of his debts are owing to Mr. Isaac Allerton of Plymouth, Merchant, late brother of said Zarah; the said Isaac hath given free leave to all others his creditors to be fully discharged, before he receives any of his particular debts to himself, desiring rather to lose all than other men should lose any." On the 10th of the following March, William Bradford sold unto Stephen Doane the dwelling of Godbert Godbertson with outhouses, etc., for twenty pounds.

1633–34, John Coombe, who married Sarah Priest, the younger, and was therefore the brother-in-law of Phinehas Pratt, sold unto John Doane "a dwelling house and homestead with the enclosure and outbuildings thereto belonging, next adjoining to the late dwelling house of Godbert Godbertson, on the west side thereof and the Herring river on the east in Plymouth, for nine pounds and ten shillings."

In 1633 Phinehas Pratt was taxed nine shillings. The tax list consisted of about ninety persons, and his name was the twenty-first on the list; not more than half the number assessed paid a larger tax. We find his name continued on the town rates for several subsequent years; in 1634 he was the eighteenth person named among those who were taxed.

In 1635 Phinehas Pratt was one of the jury of inquest holden at Plymouth.

March 14, 1635–36. The hay ground in Plymouth was set off; Phinehas Pratt was to have that between Fr. Billington and his own house, as his proportion.

June 14, 1636, "There is granted this day by the Court, Ten acres of Land to James Shiffe; five in length and two in breadth, between the lands of Phinehas and Widow Billington." This year Phinehas Pratt and John Coombe had the same hay grounds assigned them as last year. This "assignment" was made annually, as no meadow lands were allowed to be taken up by individuals till some time after.

In 1640, Governor Bradford surrendered the Patent of the Plymouth Colony to "the body of Freemen." Three large tracts of land were included; of these the first comprehended Eastham, Orleans, and Brewster in the County of Barnstable: second, a part of New Bedford and Dartmouth in the County of Bristol: and third, Swansea and Rehoboth in the same County; and Barrington and Warren and perhaps Bristol in Rhode Island, were reserved in the surrender to the "purchasers" or "old comers." They then numbered forty-eight persons. In 1664 a portion of these lands were set off to Phinehas Pratt and the children of Clement Briggs,

under these considerations, viz. : — "That whereas, the said Pratt and Clement Briggs have not had their proportion of land with others formerly called 'purchasers' or 'old comers,' that they may have some consideration of land in that respect in a parcel or tract of land lying near unto the line betwixt the Plymouth and the Massachusetts jurisdiction, and near unto Weymouth, doth grant unto said Phinehas Pratt, and unto two of the said Clement Briggs his sons, viz., David Briggs and Remember Briggs, Three hundred and fifty acres. The remainder thereof unto the two sons of the said Clement Briggs. The grantees to pay the cost of extinguishing the Indian title." This grant was laid out from the path that led from Weymouth to Bridgewater.

In 1643 Phinehas Pratt was enrolled in Plymouth as capable of bearing arms.

In the Plymouth Records [Vol. II, page 78], is the following curious entry : —

Nov. 5, 1644. *Memorand.* That Thomas Bunting, dwelling with Phinehas Pratt, has wth and by the consent of the said Phinehas put himself as a servant to dwell with John Cooke, Junior, from the 15th day of this instant Novembr, for and during the terme of eight yeares now next ensuing and fully to be completed and ended. The said John Cooke fynding unto his said servant, meate, drink and apparell during the said terme and in the end thereof double to apparell him throughout and to pay him twelve bushells of Indian Corne, the said John Cooke haveing paid the said Phinehas for him one melche cowe valued at V. lb. and fourty shillings in money, and is to lead the said Phinehas two loads of hay yearely during the terme of seaven yeares now next ensuinge.

Phinehas Pratt sells his estate in Plymouth, August 6, 1646, to John Cooke. In the conveyance Pratt is styled a joiner.

Robert Hicks, deceased at Plymouth March 24, 1647, gives by Will to William Pontus, Phinehas Pratt, John Faunce, Nathaniel Morton and Thomas Cushman, twenty shillings each.

In 1648 Phinehas Pratt purchases an estate in Charlestown, Mass. The deed given to him for it is the tenth or twelfth on the Charlestown records. As the first settlers of this place divided the land among themselves by lot, the only known written title which they then had was a description of the lots entered on the Town-book, which each owner could then well distinguish and describe. We here give the deed as it appears recorded by the town authority: —

"A Sale of a House and garden in Charlestown, by George Bunker unto Phinehas Pratt, the 20th of the 3d Month [which was then May 20th], 1648–9. Know all men by these presents, that I, George Bunker, inhabitant in Charlestown have souled assigned and sett over and by this declare I do assign and sett over unto Phinehas Pratt, a house or tenement with a garden to it adjoining, which house and garden stands and is situate in Charlestown in the great throughfare street which goes from the neck of land into the market place. This house and garden stands right over against the way which goes up to the windmill hill, and that way which goes into Elbow Lane. The house is bounded on the front by the Street way or the West. And the house and garden are bounded on the East by the back street which goes to the pitt where the beasts drinke and where the creek begins to run on the

back side of the Majors garden [Major Sedgewick], into Charles River, and is bounded Northward by Samuel Howard and Southward by Thomas Carter, Senior. Alsoe I George Bunker doe acknowledge myselfe to bee fully payed and satisfyed for this sayed house and garden and doe hereby resign all my right, titell and interest in sayed house and garden unto the sayed Phinehas Pratt to be his and his haires forever. signed John Greene."

Greene was "Ruling Elder" of the Church, and also one of the leading citizens of Charlestown; he probably signed the instrument in his official capacity, as town clerk, or recorder, the town record being probably the only document to complete the transaction legally, and no deed was given to the grantee, nor required by him in hand to perfect the title. This was very generally the case in the early days of the New England towns, where the Indians being the original proprietors often gave the title, in their sale of lands, to a company of settlers, and the record on the town book, of the subsequent division, determined the individual title; this custom lasted for more than a century.

The Rev. William I. Budington, D. D., in his History of the First Church in Charlestown, informs us that the baptismal record of that Church is imperfect, stopping with September 20, 1642, after which, for a period of seventeen years, but one or two entries are made thereon: we are therefore unable to learn from that source any dates of the birth of the children who were probably born there.

In 1638, 'liberty was granted by the Court unto Phinehas Pratt, or any for him, to look out a parcell or tract of land to accomodate him and his posterity withal, together with

other freemen or alone, as he shall think meet, and to make report of the same unto the Court, that so a considerable proportion thereof may be confirmed unto him.'—Plymouth Records, Vol. III, page 145.

March 1, 1658. When the Malden Lands were divided among the inhabitants of Charlestown, Phinehas Pratt had awarded to him fourteen acres of woodland and two and a half acres of commons. Charlestown at that time contained fifty families.

In 1662 Phinehas Pratt sells a wood lot in Charlestown to John Smith. The same year Phinehas Pratt petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts for some consideration in the form of a grant of land to him, as one of the first inhabitants of New England, to which the following reply was made: —

May 7. "In answer to the petition of Phinehas Pratt of Charlestown, who presented this Court with a Narrative of the straits and hardships that the first planters of this Colony underwent in their endeavors to plant themselves at Plymouth and since, whereof he was one; The Court judge it meet to grant him three hundred acres of land where it is to be had, not hindering a plantation." The land thus granted was laid out in the wilderness on the east of Merrimack River, near the upper end of "Nacoke Brook." Several references to this estate will appear below.

In 1665 there was granted by the General Court to Phinehas Pratt and to James Lowell, "about four or five acres of meadow or such swamp ground as tendeth towards meadows,

laying on the westerly side of Phinehas Pratt's land that was granted unto him by the last Court."

In October, 1668, the following petition was presented to the General Court by Phinehas Pratt, who was then about seventy-eight years old if the age as given on his grave-stone is correct: —

To the Honoured the Generall Court, holden at Boston this — October 1668. I acknowledg myself truly thankfull unto the Honoured Court for that they gave me at the time I presented an History called, A declaration of the affaires of the Einglish People, that first inhabited New Eingland. Yet my necessity causeth me farther to entreat you to consider what my service hath been unto my dread Soveraign Lord King James of famous memory. I am one of that litle number, ten men that arrived in the Massachusetts Bay for the setling of a Plantation, & am the remainder of the forlorn hope sixty men. We bought the south part of the Bay of Aberdecest their Sachem. Ten of our company died by famine. Then said y^e^ Natives of the Countrey, "Let us kill them, whilst they are weak, or they will possesse our Countrey & drive us away." Three times we fought with them, thirty miles I was pursued for my life, in time of frost, and snow, as a deer chased with wolves. Two of our men were kill'd in warr, one shot in the shoulder. It was not by the wit of man nor by y^e^ strength of the arme of flesh, that we prevailed against them. But God, that overrules all power, put fear in their hearts. And now seeing God hath added a New England to Old Engl. and given both to our dread Soveriꝫ Lord King Charles the second, many thousand People enjoy the peace thereof; Now in times of prosperity, I beseech you consider the day of small things; for I was almost frozen in time of our weak beginnings, and now am lame.

My humble request is for that may be for my subsistance, the remaining time of my life. And I shall be obliged.

Your thankfull servant,

PHINEHAS PRATT.

The Deputyes Doe not Judge meete to graunt this petition, w^th^ refference to the consent of o^r^ Hono^ed^ magist^s^ hereto.

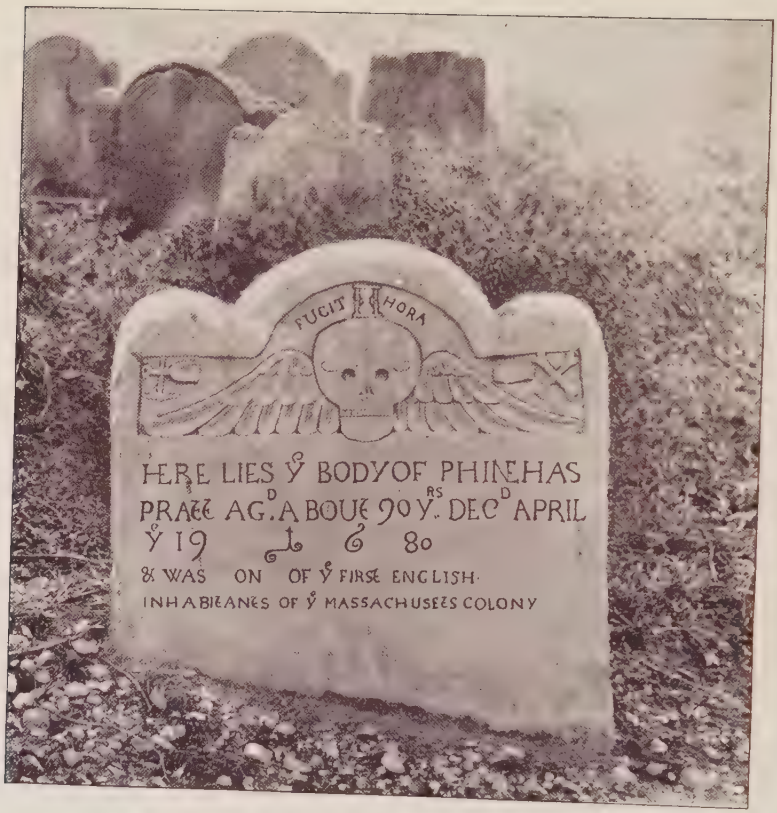
WILLIAM TORREY, *Cleric.*

The Magistrates consent w^th^ their bretheren the Deputys.

JO: PYNCHON, *Pr Curiam.*

The reason for this refusal does not appear to have been stated, but the lapse of nearly half a century had no doubt made the recollection of those hardships less vivid in the minds of those who were then in charge of the affairs of the Colony. Plymouth had twice made him a special grant (in 1638 and 1640) as we have already shown, and Massachusetts had done so in 1662 and 1665; but the latter grants especially were then of little service to him, for it would hardly be possible to realize their value for years to come, and the appraisers of his estate overlooked the Dunstable lands entirely.

In 1672 Phinehas Pratt, then of Charlestown, Mass., sold a portion of land which was set off to him with the heirs of Clement Briggs, some two hundred and thirty-two acres, to John Shaw of Weymouth, for thirty-five pounds. It "bounded easterly on the grant to Briggs: southerly on the four-mile line: westerly on the western division of the young men's shares and northerly on the one hundred and twenty acre grant to Lieut. John Holbrook." Pratt and


FUGIT HORA
HERE LIES Y BODY OF PHINEHAS
PRATT AG. ABOUT 90 Y. DEC APRIL
Y 19 6 80
& WAS ON OF Y FIRST ENGLISH
INHABITANTS OF Y MASSACHUSETTS COLONY

THE OLD TOMBSTONE.

Briggs are mentioned[1] in the grant as "Purchasers" or "Old Comers."

Fox, in his History of Dunstable, describes a certain piece of real estate as on the easterly side of the Merrimack in Litchfield, in Nacook, adjoining five hundred acres in the town of Billerica, near property of Phinehas Pratt. This doubtless refers to the land granted him by the Massachusetts General Court, May, 1662.

April 19, 1680, Phinehas Pratt died at Charlestown, Mass., aged "about 90 years." The "Old Planter" was interred in the ancient cemetery in that place, where two stones are still standing to mark his grave, one at the head and the other at the foot. The following inscription is copied from the head-stone: —

FUGIT HORA.
HERE LIES Y^e^ BODY OF PHINEHAS
PRATT AG^d^ ABOUT 90 Y^rs.^ DEC^d^ APRIL
Y^e^ 19 1 6 80
& WAS ON OF Y^e^ FIRST ENGLISH
INHABITANTS OF Y^e^ MASSACHUSETS COLONY.

A foot-stone is inscribed

PHINEHAS
PRATT.

Savage thinks he was not so old, by about ten years, as his epitaph would make him. His widow survived him, we believe, about nine years.

1 See Hobart's History of Abington.

THE WILL OF PHINEHAS PRATT.

1677. I, Phinehas Pratt of Charlestown, in the county of Middlesex, Joiner, being very aged and crazie of body yett in perfect memory and understanding, doe make this my last will and testament.

Item, I give unto my beloved wife Mary Pratt all my movable goods, and fortie shillings a year, to be paid out of my land in Charlestown, and the use of the garden for the term of her life: this forty shillings is to be payed by my sonn Joseph Pratt for and in consideration of the having my land, and my wife is to have a convenient room of my sonn Joseph, with a chimney in it, to her content to live in, for term of her life without molestation or trubl. But if my sonn Joseph doeth not perform this I will that then my wife Mary Pratt shall have the one half of the land to disposing for her best comfort. It is to be understood that the one half which the new house standeth on is given to Joseph, upon the condition of providing of a convenient room for me and my wife for term of our lives; and the other half, for the paying of the fortie shillings a year, paying it quarterly; that is to say ten shillings a quarter, in money and fire-wood at money prices. And if I have anything left at the death of my wife it shall be equally divided among the rest of my children.

This eight of January 1677.

Sealed and delivered in presents of

Walter Alen PHINEHAS PRATT,

The mark of Robert Alen L. S.

It will be perceived that he names but one of his children in his will — Joseph — and refers to "the rest of my children." We have been enabled to obtain the Christian names of eight of them; others he may have had who died before he did, and who may have been born in Charlestown, but the loss of the old Church records has prevented us from establishing the correctness of this opinion. We incline to believe that he had a son Phinehas, who had deceased when he made his will or shortly after, but of this we are not sure.

AN INVENTORY OF THE ESTATE OF PHINEHAS PRATT, OF CHARLESTOWN. DECEASED.[1]

A Parcell of Land	. . . . .	018.00.00
Imprs To Woolen cloathes of his	. . . .	001.10.00
It " Linen Shirts	. . . . .	000.09.00
It " 8 Pillows and 5 Napkins	. . .	000.13.00
It " 5 Sheets	. . . . .	001.04.00
It " 4 Blankets and 2 Ruggs	. . . .	002.05.00
It " A bed bolster and pillows	. . .	002.10.00
It " A Small bed	. . . . .	000.08.00
It " 2 Cupboards, 2 Chests, 1 Box	. .	001.05.00
It " Pewter	. . . . .	002.02.00
It " 2 Brass Skillets 5s., a warming pan 5s.	.	000.10.00
It " 2 Iron Potts, 1 Skillet	. . . .	000.09.00
It " 2 Iron Kettles	. . . . .	001.06.00
It " A trammell and frying pan	. . .	000.03.00
It " A small table, 2 Chairs	. . . .	000.05.00
It " A pair of Hose, 2 Baggs	. . . .	000.04.00
It " Earthen Ware, 5 Trenchers	. . .	000.02.06
It " Wooden Ware	. . . . .	000.02.00

1 See Pulsifer's Copies, Book 5, Page 412, Cambridge Probate Office.

It	To Hatchett, a holdfast, a froue . . .	000.05.00
It	" Lumber	000.16.00
It	" Books	000.08.00
		34.16.06

These goods were prized by
Lawr Dowse
& Hen. Balcome 21st, 3mo, 1680.
15—4—80. Sworn in Court by ye Exect.

MARY PRATT, *teste.* T. D. R.

Added 4mo. 12 day. '81. Cow comon in Charlestown
12. 81 Stinted Comon 006.00.00

This Inventory of the estate of Phinehas Pratt is recorded in the Probate Office at Cambridge, Mass., as is also his will. In this Inventory the three hundred acres which belonged to him as a gift from the General Court are not included; this land was in Nottingham or Dunstable, now in New Hampshire. An examination of this document and the fact of his possessing the tract of land in Dunstable not here included, as well as the "new house" mentioned in the will, must convince any one that his request for a further grant of land, given on a previous page, was not because of straitened means and the infirmities of age, as has been intimated by one writer, but simply as a just compensation for services rendered and sufferings borne in behalf of his country. The "parcell of land" was probably the home-lot in Charlestown. About the year 1722 the Dunstable land was appraised and apportioned among the heirs, as will be seen by the following record: —

"December 28, 1722, Daniel Fletcher, of Dunstable,[1] petitioned as assignee of one eighth part of the three hundred acres of land in Dunstable, belonging to the heirs of Phinehas Pratt, which eighth he purchased of Aaron Pratt, of Hingham, a son of the deceased Phinehas, about forty years since, not inventoried with the rest of his estate at his death, and remaining unadministered at this time, desiring to have this proportion administered upon." Fletcher was then appointed administrator of that portion of the property. The persons who appraised this land reported the three hundred acres to be worth one hundred and thirty-five pounds.[2]

Aaron Pratt conveyed to Fletcher his right (one-eighth) in the above estate, for ten pounds.[3]

July 31, 1738. The returns of Commissioners give into Court the following as his heirs, who were then assigned their shares: — John, dec'd; Peter, dec'd; Samuel, Daniel, Mary: the other three having previously disposed of their shares, viz.: Mercy, Aaron, and Joseph's heirs. The descendants of John and Peter, I am unable to trace. From this return, however, we infer they had issue, as otherwise they would not have been considered in the final division.

December 26, 1681. The widow of Phinehas — Mary — and Joseph her son, in consideration of a valuable sum of

1 Daniel Fletcher was born A. D. 1697, and was one of fourteen children all born at Chelmsford.

2 Middlesex Reg., Book 16.

3 Reg. Deeds, Camb., Lib. 21, p. 217.

lawful money, convey to Solomon and Samuel Phipps their interest in a cow common in Charlestown.[1]

"July, 1689. Then Mr. Joseph Greene Senior, and Mr. Eleazor Phillips were impowered to apprise the goods of widow Pratt, lately died."[2] We think this must have reference to Mary, the relict of Phinehas, and we believe that she was then in the neighborhood of her seventy-sixth year and that Phinehas was her senior by twenty-two or twenty-three years, if the date on his tomb-stone is correct.

1 Camb. Reg. Deeds, Lib. 8, Fol. 500. 2 Charlestown Records.

GENEALOGY.

CONCERNING the arrangement which follows, a few words of explanation may be desirable. The descendants are given by generations, which are indicated by the "superior figure" after the name, the original emigrant being PHINEHAS.[1] The descendants are numbered consecutively at the left; the children in subsequent generations are taken up in the order of their parents; for example the family of (3) Samuel[2] is given before that of his brother (4) Daniel[2] and so throughout. When an individual is to be mentioned in the following generation, the number assigned him is printed in bolder type, and the person thus designated appears on a subsequent page in consecutive order, his number beginning the paragraph: for example, the family of **3** Samuel[2] first named on page 56, appears again on page 58, and **4** David[2] on page 60. The names in italics, placed in parentheses after one of the descendants thus taken up, show the line of descent. With these explanations it is believed that no difficulty will

be found in tracing back, by the numbers, the direct line to our common ancestor.

1 PHINEHAS[1] PRATT was the son of Rev. Henry Pratt, a Non-conformist English clergyman. He was born in England, and after coming to America, as has been already narrated, he married in 1638, Mary, daughter of Digerie and Mary (Allerton) Priest. He died April 19, 1680. His age is given on his tomb-stone as 90, which, if correct, would make the year of his birth 1590. His wife survived him about nine years. Their children were as follows, — the order of birth not being certainly known, and possibly there may have been others:

2 John.[2] Untraceable.

3 Samuel[2] b. ——— ; m. Mary ———, slain in the "Pawtucket fight" March 26, 1676.

4 Daniel[2] b. ——— ; m. ——— .

5 Peter.[2] Untraceable. We have only been able to discover that he had deceased when the distribution of the 300 acres of the Dunstable land was made in 1738.

6 Joseph[2] b. ——— ; m. Feb. 12, 1674–5, Dorcas Foldgier (or Folger); d. Dec. 24, 1712, at Charlestown, Mass.

7 Aaron[2] b. about 1654; m. (1) Sarah, dau. of Joseph Pratt, believed to have been his father's brother; she d. July 22, 1706, and he m. (2) Sarah Cummings, Sept. 4, 1707, who d. Dec. 25, 1752. Aaron d. Feb. 23 (or 25), 1735.

8 Mary[2] b. ——— ; probably m. John Swan, March 1, 1656; d. Feb. 11, 1702–3.

9 Mercy[2] b. ——— ; m. ~~Perry~~ Jeremiah Holman of Cambridge

In 1738, when the Dunstable land which belonged to the heirs of Phinehas[1] Pratt passed finally away from the family, three of them had previously disposed of their rights, to wit: Aaron,[2] Joseph,[2] deceased, through his son Joshua,[3] and Mercy.[2] Samuel[3] Pratt, of Middleboro, sold his share which he inherited from his father (Samuel[2]), who was slain in the Indian War. The probability is that he was then the only living son of Samuel.[2] The Dunstable land, as has been stated on a previous page, was not included in the Inventory of Phinehas at the time of his decease. The danger from Indian incursions made it somewhat hazardous and undesirable for a residence at that early period, but in 1738 it was probably found necessary to make a final settlement of the various interests.

Aaron[2] sold his portion, as one-eighth, as early as 1722, about forty years after the decease of his father Phinehas.[1] From this mention of the proportion he had received, it has been inferred that there were eight children (or representatives of so many) surviving, when the division was finally made. There are however some difficulties in determining this to be the case, for a proportionate part is called "*one-ninth*" in a deed to be mentioned hereafter under Joshua,[3] which is not easy of explanation. The doubt as to the number of children is increased when we remember that Phinehas made special provision for Joseph,[2] above his other children, which possibly shows that he was the eldest son, and bequeathes "anything left" to the "rest;" this might be thought to imply that Joseph[2] was not to receive any portion of those lands, did it not appear that his son Joshua[2] is said to have sold his father's interest as one-ninth, in 1723,

and Mercy[2] also sold one-ninth in 1737. It therefore seems highly probable that there were other children of Phinehas[1] whose names have not been found. We have some reason to think he may have had a son Phinehas, as already mentioned, but it is too uncertain to include him in the list of children.

Second Generation.

3 Samuel[2] (*Phinehas*[1]), the date and place of whose birth is unknown, m. Mary ——. He was a member of Capt. Michael Pierce's company of soldiers from Scituate, and was slain with about forty-seven others, in a battle with the Indians, known as "the Pawtucket Fight," on Sunday, March 26, 1676. His widow afterwards married —— Woode.

His children were: —

10 Samuel[3] b. Nov. 15, 1670; m. ——; d. about 1745.

He probably also had three daughters, whose Christian names are not certainly known to the compiler; but it is believed that two of them were

11 Susanna[3] Pratt, who married William Thomas, of Middleboro, before 1711, and

12 Patience[3] Pratt, who married Ebenezer Lincoln, Oct., 1703.

It is thought that this William Thomas, husband of Susanna, is the one of that name, of Middleboro, styled "gentleman." There is some reason to believe that he had, previously to 1725, bought from John[2] Pratt, deceased, his

shares, John having previously bought from one of the then deceased children of Phinehas, a share,— thus making John the representative of two portions (instead of one) of the property of Phinehas. The will of Phinehas, as we have seen, provided that the property should be equally divided among the children.

The following petition of Mary Woode, believed to be a copy of the original, was found among some old papers at the former residence of Capt. Benj. Leonard, which had been shuffled with buttons, walnuts, rags, etc., in an old drawer for a long time; they were finally gathered, and copies sent to me by E. E. Leonard, Esq., of New Bedford, Mass.

"These lines may give information that Samuel Pratt's Father, my first husband, was slain by the heathen in Captain Pierce's fight. He was pressed a Souldier when I sojourned att Sittuate, having then noe place of my own, and have brought him up with other small children, and I shall take it very unkindly, Iff he that is the only one son of his father that was slain in the former warr should be compelled to go out againe, itt being contrary as I am informed to the law of England and this country, therefore I desire itt may not be.

(No date.) Soe petitions MARY WOODE
from Middlebury [Middleboro].

When King Philip's Indian war broke out, the inhabitants of Middleboro fled to Scituate, Duxbury, Plymouth, and other places of refuge — the number of families at Middleboro being about twenty. The probability is that Samuel[2]

the son of Phinehas[1], married and settled in Middleboro between 1659 and the breaking out of the War, and "sojourned" in Scituate when he was "pressed," in accordance with an order of Court issued early in 1676. It was in one of the fiercest Indian fights in this war that he was killed with his Captain, Michael Pierce, and nearly all his company, who had been "trepanned into an ambushment of the enemy" on Sunday, March 26, 1676. A full account of this disaster, following close upon success, and the brave fight of the Colonists, will be found in Hubbard, in Drake's reprint of Mather's King Philip's War, pp. 126–130, and in Drake's "Old Indian Chronicle," pp. 220–222. His widow married a Woode, and her only son Samuel[3] may have been drafted, or perhaps his mother fearing that he might be compelled to serve as a soldier in the Old French War about 1692–95, presented her remonstrance.

4 Daniel[2] (*Phinehas*[1]). The date of his birth and marriage have not been ascertained. In 1737 Rachel Beers, of Newport, R. I., a granddaughter of this Daniel[2] gave Samuel[3] (10) Pratt, the grandson of Phinehas,[1] a power of attorney to dispose of her share of the three hundred acres of Dunstable land (or Nottingham, as it is sometimes called), "belonging to the said Daniel deceased." He is described as "late of Providence."

6 Joseph[2] (*Phinehas*[1]), b. ——; m. February 12, 1674–5, Dorcas, daughter of Peter and Mary (Morrill) Folger. He died at Charlestown, Mass., December 24, 1712. In the old records he is described as "waterman." He was appointed

by the town as Measurer of coal and salt, and was also a "Tything Man" in 1680. Peter Folger, of Nantucket, his father-in-law, was somewhat conspicuous as a poet, as well as in other respects, and a prominent citizen among his contemporaries. "Some verses by him," says Savage, "occasioned by Philip's war, under the whimsical title of 'Looking-Glass for the Times,' printed after ninety years' circulating in MS., are sought for sometimes, less for poetical value than bibliographic curiosity." Dorcas was admitted to the church in 1688.

The youngest sister of Dorcas, Abiah Folger, born August 15, 1667, married Josiah Franklin in 1690, as his second wife, and was the mother of the illustrious Benjamin Franklin, who was born in Boston, January 17, 1706. Abiah died aged about 85 years.

In 1691, the Town of Charlestown let to Joseph[2] the land called Ferryman's Island, for which he was to pay three shillings in money, or one and a half bushels of merchantable corn for the year. This was in consideration of the grass which he thus had the right to mow there. Ferryman's Island is at the end of Malden bridge, which connects Charlestown with Malden, on the Malden side.

1711, Joseph[2] Pratt bought of Benj. Lawrence, of Charlestown, for £40 current money, "Half of the dwelling house and half of the land lying behind, fronting Southerly on Wapping street,* in said town."

July 23, 1712, Joseph[2] Pratt makes his will in which he refers to his wife Dorcas, and appoints his son Joshua[3] ex-

* See Middlesex Reg. Deeds, Lib. 15, Fol. 503.

ecutor. As he names only Mary, Bethia, and Sarah, of his children, and makes provision for some of his grandchildren (the children of Joshua's brother Joseph,[2]) without giving their names, the others were probably deceased.

The children of Joseph[2] and Dorcas were : —

13 Mary,[3] b. Sept. 16, 1675; mentioned in her father's will, A. D. 1712.

14 Joseph,[3] b. Oct. 19, 1677; d. Dec. 24, 1712, leaving issue, mentioned in their grandfather's will, but not named.

15 Bethia,[3] b. Feb. 11, 1679–80; m. Sampson Cartwright,* of Nantucket, who was perhaps son of Edward, and born Jan. 26, 1678. She died 19th of 10th Mo. (December) 1741, at which time she was a widow.

16 Benjamin,[3] b. Jan. 19, 1681–2; d. an infant Feb. 20, 1681–2.

17 Dorcas,[3] b. April 2, 1683; d. Feb. 2, 1683–4.

18 Benjamin,[3] b. Jan. 1683–4; probably d. young.

19 Phinehas,[3] b. Jan. 18, 1684–5; nothing further has been obtained.

20 Joshua,[3] b. June 18, 1686; m. Mary ——— .

21 Lydia,[3] b. Dec. 28, (Nov. according to Savage,) 1688; d. Aug. 31, 1694. Savage says that "the living three sons and daughters were baptized Feb. 10, 1689 (N. S.) when, unluckily only Joseph is named in the record." The other two were probably Phinehas and Joshua.

* So little attention to accurate spelling was given by the clerks of record in the early days, that there is much uncertainty as to the orthography of many names. In this case we give Sampson — a family name in that region, — following the "Genealogical Register," as probably more correct, than Samson, the Scriptural name. It also is often impossible to distinguish between the names Mercy and Mary in the old chirography. One of our informants gives "Mercy" as the name of the eldest daughter,

22 Sarah,[3] b. about 1690. She married first, Jeremiah Coleman, her cousin, of Nantucket, 20th 11th Mo. (January), 1714–5. Jeremiah was the son of John and Joanna (Folger) Coleman. His mother was the eldest sister of Dorcas, his wife's mother. She married as her second husband John Renuff, and died 27th 4th Mo. (June), 1762.

23 John,[3] b. 2769; he has not been traced. Hudson in his "History of Marlboro, Mass.," mentions a John Prate or Pratt, who m. Bathsheba Fay in that town and had a son *Phinehas* b. Feb. 8, 1717–8, and d. young. The only reason for supposing him to be related to our ancestor lies in the similarity of the names. This reference is given simply as a possible clue for future investigation, but no number is assigned to the son.

24 Mercy,[3] b. ——— .

The Hon. William Mitchell, A. M., and Miss Maria Mitchell, the astronomer, formerly of Nantucket, Mass., and Charles W. Cartwright, late of Boston, are among the descendants* of Joseph[2] and Dorcas Pratt.

7 Aaron[2] (*Phinehas*[1]), of Cohasset. By occupation he was a farmer; he was born in Charlestown, A. D. 1654, and about November 28, 1685, removed to that part of Hingham (Mass.), then known as the first division of land of Conohas-

without mentioning the date of her birth. We have preferred to follow the authority cited, which calls her "Mary," and gives her birthday, and Mary is mentioned in her father's will. This may possibly indicate that there was no "Mercy," whose name we have placed at the close of the list—a point which must be left to future investigators.

* See N. E. Gen. Reg., 1862, page 271.

set; it embraced eighteen acres of uplands. He married Sarah, the daughter of Joseph and Sarah Pratt, of Weymouth, and a descendant of Matthew, of Weymouth.* She was born May 31, 1664, and died July 22, 1706, aged 42 years. He married at Charlestown, for his second wife, Sarah Cummings, a widow, from Woburn, September 4, 1707 (Justice Brown, of Reading, performing the ceremony), whose maiden name was Wright. [She may have been the daughter of Josiah (sometimes written Joseph) and Elizabeth (Hassall) Wright, born February 25, 1669–70; there was a Sarah Cummings, of Woburn, whose husband was Abraham, of Woburn and Dunstable, who had several children by him, but whether this be the same we do not certainly know.] She was distinguished for her sagacity and energy. She had a very extensive practice in midwifery at Hingham and its vicinity, a branch of the medical profession then largely conducted by females. She died December 25, 1752, aged 84 years, "lamented by all who knew her."

Aaron[2] Pratt died February 23, 1735, aged 81 years. His will is dated June 1, 1730. He was interred in the old Cohasset burying-ground with both of his wives, where a monumental stone records their names, etc. He was a man of more than ordinary natural endowments — hardy, industrious, prudent, enterprising, persevering and frugal.

The first generation from the Pilgrims did not have even the slight advantages of education which many of their pre-

* A volume has been printed since the death of the compiler, giving an account of the descendants of this Matthew, which seems to show that he bore no relation to our ancestor.

decessors enjoyed, yet beginning life as a poor man, he supported comfortably and respectably a family of fourteen children, and left his heirs a valuable estate, the result of his own unaided efforts. The house which he built was two stories high, with a gable roof; the lower story was of stone, and the upper portion of wood. The windows were of a small diamond pattern of glass, architecturally known as "quarrels," inserted in leaden sashes. The land whereon he lived for fifty years has always remained in the possession of his descendants. It was on this spot that his son Benjamin Pratt, afterwards Colonial Chief Justice of New York, was born. Dr. Ezekiel[5] Pratt, a very skillful and popular physician of Cohasset, a grandson of Aaron[3] (27), was also born on this place.

Their children were:

25 Henry,[3] b. ——— ; a blacksmith, settled in Newton.

26 Daniel,[3] b. ——— ; who was also a blacksmith, and settled in Needham.

27 Aaron,[3] b. March 21, 1690; m. Mary Whitcomb; he resided in Cohasset, where he d. March 28, 1767, and was a farmer.

28 John,[3] b. ———; a tanner; he resided at Rehoboth or Taunton, Mass., and d. in Taunton ———.

29 Jonathan,[3] b. ———; a farmer; settled near Aaron in Cohasset.

30 Moses,[3] b. ——— ; a mariner; moved to Boston. Tradition says he died in the district of Maine.

31 Sarah,[3] b. ——— ; m. ——— Weebs, of Scituate, Mass.

32 Mercy,[3] b. ——— ; m. Samuel Orcutt, of Hingham.

33 Elizabeth,[3] b. ———; m. (1) Rev. Nehemiah Hobart, of Cohasset, who died in 1740; Rev. Nehemiah was son of Nehemiah (also a clergyman, who was born Nov. 21, 1648, and graduated at Harvard in 1667), and grandson of the Rev. Peter, pastor of the old Hingham church, born in Hingham, England, and bred at the University at Cambridge. Peter was a man of considerable prominence in his day, and it is related was apt to "speak his mind" with greater freedom that was acceptable to the ecclesiastical and civic powers. He was concerned in the troubles which arose between Major John Childe and the Colonial authorities, full accounts of which will be found in the quaint little books "New England's Jonas Cast up at London," and "New England's Salamander Discovered." Elizabeth m. (2) Deacon Nehemiah Merritt, of Scituate.

34 Hannah,[3] b. ———; m. Amos Hovey, of Boston.

35 Nathaniel,[3] b. ———; m. —— McFarland, at Hingham; d. in Cuba, W. I.

36 Phinehas,[3] b. ———; m. Mary Lincoln, of Hingham. He was a housewright; he moved toward Worcester, Mass., and he or his descendants afterwards went to Connecticut.

37 Benjamin,[3] b. in Hingham, March 13, 1710; m. Isabella, daughter of Robert Auchmuty, of Boston. His will is dated Dec. 29, 1762, and he d. Jan. 6, 1763. He was Chief Justice of New York under the Crown.

38 Abigail,[3] b. ———; m. Rev. Jonathan Neal.

Some notes on the family of Robert Auchmuty, with whom Judge Pratt read law, as will be seen later, will be found on a subsequent page.

8 Mary[2] (*Phinehas*[1]), b. ~~———~~ ; m. probably John Swan, of Cambridge, March 1, 1656; d. February 11, 1702–3, aged about 70 years.

Her children were:

39 Samuel,[3] b. April 3 or May 1, 1657; d. June 19, 1678.
40 Mary,[3] b. May 2, 1659.
41 Elizabeth,[3] b. July 14, 1661.
42 Lydia,[3] b. July 28, 1663.
43 John,[3] b. May 1, 1665.
44 Hannah,[3] b. Feb. 27, 1668.
45 Ebenezer,[3] b. Nov. 14, 1672.

Wm. Swan,[4] her grandson, was born 1714, and took part in settling the Dunstable land, July 11, 1738. He was the son of Ebenezer.

9 Mercy[2] (*Phinehas*[1]), b. ——— ; m. ~~probably~~ —— ~~Perry~~. We find a record that "Mercy Perry, widow, conveys *one-ninth* of land in Dunstable (or Nottingham), belonging to the estate of Phinehas Pratt, to James Perry and Wm. Swan, July 11, 1738."

James Perry, whose name is thus mentioned in the final disposition of the Dunstable land on one or more fragments of paper in the Cambridge Probate office, may possibly have been the son, or grandson of Mercy Pratt, and received her share, which it will be noticed, again brings up the question why some of the heirs took one-eighth and others one-ninth of that property. The "Wm. Swan" mentioned in the record, was no doubt the same mentioned in the preceding paragraph, as the grandson of Mary.

THIRD GENERATION.

10 Samuel[3] (*Samuel*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born November 15, 1670. He is styled "wheelwright," and also "sergeant" and "constable." He married ——, and died about 1745. He was an inhabitant of Middleborough, (Plymouth County), Mass., as early as 1695, where he had lot 33 in the second division, and lot 153 in the fifth division in the south purchase, and perhaps was born there. This is the "only son," whose mother's petition that he might not "be compelled to go out againe" is printed on page 59.

His children were:

46 Samuel,[4] b. May 15, 1697.

47 John,[4] b. Aug. 22, 1700; he d. before his father, leaving children, who are mentioned in their grandfather's will about 1745.

48 Nathan,[4] b. June 20, 1703; m. Margaret Sampson, June 16, 1747.

49 Sarah,[4] b. Aug. 28, 1705; m. —— Barrons.

50 Hannah,[4] b. May 17, 1708.

51 Phinehas,[4] b. ——; m. Sarah, dau. of Benj. White, Jr.

52 Mary,[4] b. ——; m. (1) Nathaniel Washburn, and (2) Eleazer Cary. Mary,[5] daughter of Eleazer and Mary (Pratt) Cary, married Nathaniel Morton, of Taunton, and had Marcus[6] Morton, who was born at Freetown, Mass., in 1784, was Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts from 1825 to 1840, elected Governor of the Commonwealth in 1840 and 1843, and died in 1864; the family has been distinguished for ability in later generations.

20 Joshua[3] (*Joseph*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was a blacksmith. He was born June 18, 1686. He married Mary —— about 1722. He removed from Charlestown to Boston. He sold his father's (Joseph) interest as *one-ninth* of the land in Dunstable, June 20, 1723, for £8, 10 shillings. It seems that Aaron,[2] his uncle, claimed and received *one-eighth*, which he sold as mentioned above, and Mercy,[2] his aunt, had received and sold *one-ninth*.* Why Joseph's fractional portion was less we can only conjecture; as has already been shown, only eight are named among the records at the final division, and we must leave the matter in uncertainty.

In the records of the Second Church of Boston, Joshua Pratt is named as having been admitted a member in 1725. In 1736 he was living in Boston, and sold the estate of his father in Wapping Street, Charlestown. We are unable to trace him or his descendants any further than now presented, save that under the records of births for the Town of Boston, we find

53 Joshua,[4] "Son of Joshua and Mary, b. Feb. 20, 1723," who was probably of this family.

25 Henry[3] (*Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]). He was a blacksmith by trade and settled at Newton. No record of his birth, marriage or death has been discovered, and I have been able to trace only one son from him,

54 Lemuel,[4] b. ——; m. (1) Hannah Leonard, of Taunton, who d. ——; he m. (2) Lydia Willard, of Newton, Mass., in 1750.

* See page 67, *supra*.

26 Daniel[3] (*Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]). Dates of birth, marriage, etc., have not been discovered. He was a blacksmith, and settled in Needham. He had two children who were twins.

55 Martha,[4] b. ——— ; d. aged about 20 years.
56 Mary,[4] b. ——— ; d. in Needham, aged about 80 years.

He certainly had two other daughters, names not found, one of whom married —— Eeds ; and perhaps other children.

27 Aaron[3] (*Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), b. March 21, 1690 ; m. Mary Whitcomb. He was a farmer ; he built himself a house in 1729, on the land he afterwards inherited from his father in Cohasset, where he resided until his death, March 28, 1767, aged 77 years and 7 days ; his wife died September 3, 1776. He left his heirs 1000 acres of land in Hingham, and 300 acres in the Province of Maine.

Their children were :

57 John,[4] b. in 1729, at Cohasset ; m. Bethia Tower, Aug. 19, 1775.
58 Aaron,[4] b. ——— ; m. —— Collier, of Scituate.
59 Thomas,[4] b. Nov. 25, 1736, at Cohasset ; m. Sarah, dau. of Rev. Jonathan and Abigail Neal ; d. Oct. 18, 1818.
60 Joseph.[4] Dates of birth, etc., not ascertained.
61 Samuel,[4] b. ——— ; d. a young man, unmarried.
62 Mary,[4] b. ——— ; m. Job Tower, of Cohasset.
63 Sarah,[4] b. ——— ; m. Jessaniah Nichols, of Cohasset.

29 Jonathan[3] (*Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]). He was a farmer, and resided in Cohasset, near his brother. He married and had

a daughter whose name I have not obtained, who married —— Litchfield. Perhaps there were other children.

37 Benjamin[3] (*Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]). Member of the Massachusetts Legislature, "His Majesty's Advocate General of the Province of Massachusetts," and afterwards Colonial Chief Justice of New York, under the King. He was born in that part of Hingham then known as Conohasset District, March 13, 1709–10. Hingham was settled about 1635, and Cohasset was set off from Hingham about 1670. It originally belonged to the inhabitants of that town as "undivided or common lands:" these were finally divided among the early proprietors. As late as 1714, however, all the inhabitants of both of these towns were considered to be members of the First Parish in Hingham. July 13, 1721, Nehemiah Hobart, who married Elizabeth Pratt, an elder sister of Benjamin, came to preach to them of Cohasset, the Cohasset church not yet having been formed; Hingham had refused to let them leave their place of worship till 1715, when the General Court gave them liberty to form a separate parish. December 13, 1721, the church was finally organized, and Hobart became their first minister, dying in 1640, in the forty-third year of his age.

In early youth Benjamin was apprenticed to a mechanic. When about nineteen years of age he fell from a tree and injured his leg severely. He received the best medical services attainable, and most assiduous care; notwithstanding which his limb continued to grow worse. After suffering a long time with increasing indications of a near termination of his life, his limb was amputated near the hip. For a con-

siderable time after this he continued in a precarious condition, so much so as to lead his father Aaron, who made his will in 1730, to anticipate Benjamin's early decease, — a contingency which he provided for in that instrument. Benjamin however gradually recovered strength, but he endured through his remaining years many periods of great physical pain and suffering. Whether he had any taste for literary pursuits previous to his illness is not now known. The presumption is, however, that the accident in his youth in a great measure influenced his subsequent career.

At this period the frailer boys in the family were selected for sedentary pursuits, rather than the stronger, since the latter were supposed to be better able to assist the father on the farm, and to be his successors in that occupation, or to become stronger and better mechanics. There were then few or no lawyers in New England, and a large portion of the medical practice was intrusted to women.

While colleges were considered by the intelligent as admirably calculated to improve the mind, and education was highly valued, yet in the general estimation the chief object of these institutions was to provide the churches with clergymen, who were then the leading oracles of the people. Under the tuition and direction of the Rev. Nehemiah Hobart, who as we have seen had married his half-sister Elizabeth Pratt, Benjamin was prepared to enter the Junior class in Harvard College in 1735, where he graduated in 1737, in a class of thirty-four members.

Previous to the American Revolution, instead of adopting the alphabetical order, which is now the universal custom in this country for catalogues of graduates, the plan was to

arrange the list according to the political or social standing, the wealth or prominence of the parents, without any regard to the age, moral, or intellectual condition of their sons. Benjamin Pratt's name was accordingly placed at the foot of the list, where it now stands.* In the early Triennials and the Quinquennial Catalogues of later days, it is customary to affix to the names of graduates such honorary degrees and titles as they from time to time have acquired; by reference to the last Catalogue printed by Harvard University, it appears that Benjamin Pratt attained during his life higher distinction, in some respects, than any of his thirty-three classmates, his being the only name of his class which has been printed in small capitals.

His illness prevented him from attending the Commencement of the College, for the public reception of his degree, and we here give his letter apologizing for his absence, as a specimen of the epistolary and somewhat fulsome style common at that time; the spelling and capitalizing of the original is generally followed in our copy: —

Hon.d Tutor

Please accept my transmission of that Duty and Regard which I owe, and which my unhappiness will not suffer me to pay in person. I presume on your goodness that you will not forget one of your Pupils, or Deny a protection to his cause on the Account of his Misfortune.

* The late Wm. G. Brooks, of Boston, read a paper before the Massachusetts Historical Society, of which he was a member, on "The change of the rule determining the order of names in the College Catalogue," which is printed in the Proceedings of the Society for 1866–7, pp. 252–4, and in which the method of arranging the names is discussed in an interesting manner.

I beseech that my deplorable Circumstances may not debar me from any Accademic privilages, And that I may-nt be excluded because I am unfortunate. I am not a Judge of my Qualifications. But this I think I may venture to say, That my Deficiencies are not my Faults, — But the Effects of a Ruinous constitution and Want of Advantages. For I presume there is no man that loves his Learning better, or that more freely could spend his Life in the pursuit of it, than I. But I must study how to Live, and how to bear the miseries of a Wretched Life.

I have here (pursuant to your order) sent my imperfect Thoughts on a Subject, The importance of which will excuse me (as I hope) in Deviating from the usual methods of Young Students Viz: Common placing on the Obvious Parts of learning — Selecting other Thoughts and Inventions and intruding their *Crambas-recortas** on their Superiors.

Tho' my Tenet may for aught I know be new, Yet I am far from dreaming that I shall afford any new Speculation in the matter. My only intention was to present my reasons to your Examination & tho' I dare not be so presumptious as to desire the Honour of being informed of my Sophisms, Yet I would beg your Judicious & Candid examination of them. I am sensible of my inequality to so great and difficult a Task as I have attempted — And what is an addition, the Difficulty is 'tis next to impossible for me to Express my Thoughts, Words being Prodigiously ambiguous and equivical. Our Language is imperfect and ill adapted to communicate our Ideas. And were I to write to a less man than yourself I should fear Prepossession & preimbibed notions would plead against me.

* It is not clear what is intended by these words, if they have been correctly transcribed from the old letter; but it has been suggested that possibly they should read "*Crudézas recortas*" i. e. the undigested remarks or unfinished outline of an inexperienced writer. The true interpretation must be left to be explained by some one more familiar with the student terms at Harvard a century and a half ago.

To Conclude I wish my letter may serve to communicate my Thoughts: That what is amiss may be pardoned: That all Imaginable Happiness may attend you, Hon'd Sir, and that I may have the Honor to be called your Humble Pupil

B. PRATT.

To the Rev. Mr. Nathan Prince, Q. D. C.

After graduating from college he devoted some time to the occupation of a teacher among the Indians in the neighborhood of Boston, but the compensation allowed him by the Colony was inadequate to his support. After this he studied law in Boston, with Gridley or Auchmuty,* or with both of them,— then the most distinguished lawyers of that town. He is represented as being a remarkably diligent student, although frequently suffering the most intense bodily pain, which could not divert him from his books, and we are told that often "the perspiration in a very profuse manner indicated the intensity of his anguish and his unbounded zeal for the acquisition of knowledge." He rapidly acquired fame for his learning and eloquence, and became one of the most distinguished men of his time in America.

His Law Office in Boston, was on the westerly side of Washington Street, near King (now State) Street, between State and Brattle Streets, on the site occupied more recently by Crocker & Brewster, booksellers. He received more cases than any other counsellor in New England, and many of these were of the most complicated and important character.

* In the second volume of the History of King's Chapel, Boston, it is stated that Judge Pratt read law with Robert Auchmuty.

While a resident of Boston he was an attendant at King's Chapel, and after the present building was completed he became (in 1754) the owner of the pew then and now numbered 35, which is a wall pew on the south side of the chapel as one faces the chancel, and looks out on the third window from the south-easterly corner; it still retains its ancient form. This he held until he removed from Boston, selling it in 1762. When the famous organ was set up in the gallery of that Church in 1756, he contributed five guineas towards its purchase.

During the year 1761 he was appointed Chief Justice of New York, probably through the influence of Governor Pownall, of Massachusetts, who was his close personal friend. On leaving Boston for New York he received from his professional brethren in the former city a Valedictory letter, written in the most complimentary manner, and expressing their appreciation of his profound learning and great ability, his incorruptible integrity, and his general demeanor as a citizen and man. His reply to the letter was dignified, courteous, and grateful, and won for him additional respect and esteem for its nobility.

Ex-President John Adams gives an interesting account of his personal appearance in a letter to a friend. Referring to the time when American Independence was born, and describing the Court Chamber in the Old State House in Boston, which stands at the head of King Street, he says it "was more respectable in proportion to the numbers of its eminent actors within, than the House of Lords or House of Commons, in Great Britain, or that in Philadelphia in

which the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776," and then writes: —

"Near the fire were seated five Judges with Lieut. Hutchinson at their head as Chief, all in their new Robes of Scarlet English Cloth, with their broad bands and immense Judicial wigs. At a long table sat all the barristers of Boston, and its neighboring County of Middlesex, in their gowns, bands and tye wigs. Conspicuous among these," he continues, "was Benjamin Pratt, who had recently retired from the bar to accept the office of Chief Justice of New York, now an interested spectator of the proceedings, hanging upon his crutches and covered by his great coat, attentively listening to the arguments, — himself an embodiment of wit, sense, imagination, genius, pathos, reason, prudence, eloquence, learning, science and immense reading."

The following notice appears in the Boston News Letter, June 4, 1761: "We have advice by Letters from London, That Benjamin Pratt, Esq., His Majesty's Advocate General of this Province, is appointed to be Chief Justice of New York and one of the Honorable, His Majesty's Council of that Province. (The foregoing advices were brought by the Ship Prince George which arrived here yesterday.)"

When he assumed his office in New York it occasioned much displeasure among the lawyers there, for they did not wish to have a Massachusetts man, a stranger to the most of the citizens of that region, supersede them. A case of considerable perplexity, which for a long time had baffled the Courts, was purposely selected for his ruling, in the hope of confusing him with the technicalities involved. As the

case was new to him, and he had not been previously perplexed with the subtleties which had engrossed and confused his predecessors, he was enabled to view it in a new, clearer and more comprehensive light, and gave a decision which for legal acumen, justice and judgment, astonished and greatly delighted those who had endeavored to entrap him in its complicated and bewildering meshes. He at once became as famous a jurist in New York as he had been at home. His impaired health, which was becoming daily more serious, probably prompted him to seek another sphere, and change of climate. He soon after received the appointment from the British Government as Governor of one of the West India Islands. He did not live long enough after this to remove from New York, although he was making preparations to depart and assume the office. He died in the City of New York, January 5–6, 1763, and was there interred in Trinity Church Yard. He left a widow and four children.

His old homestead, which he purchased in 1755, consisted of one hundred and fifty acres of land, and was on the southwest slope of Milton Hill, near Boston. The residence of J. W. Brooks, Esq., includes a portion of the premises.

He married Isabella, the daughter of Judge Robert Auchmuty, of the Court of Admiralty in Boston, with whom he had studied his profession, and whose residence was at Roxbury. She was a lady of marked accomplishments and refinement. The date of his marriage I have not found, but judging from the will of his wife's father, it must have been after March 15, 1741.

Robert Auchmuty, Sr., died in Boston in 1750. He was a native of Scotland. When he made his will on March 15, 1741, he was about to proceed to Great Britain in defence of the just rights of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, "In which," he says, "by the blessing of God I hope to succeed." He names Mary, his wife, as sole executrix. His children were Henrietta, wife of John Overing, Esq.; Robert; Samuel, who was born in 1725; Isabella, who married Judge Pratt, and James Smith.

The eldest son was probably Robert, as he is first named in his father's will, in Suffolk County Probate Records (Lib. 44, Fol. 67). The three sons were educated at the Boston Latin School, and the Catalogue of that School says that the fine elm trees which stood on Essex street (formerly Auchmuty's Lane) within the memory of many still living, were planted by the father. James Smith Auchmuty, who was at the Latin School in 1741, was named for a friend from whose nursery these trees came, and also the Paddock elms that once adorned Tremont street opposite the Granary Burying ground.

Samuel graduated at Harvard in 1742. He went to Oxford University, England, for the study of divinity, and on his return became Assistant Minister and subsequently the Rector of Trinity Church, New York. He was a Tory. The "rebels" burnt his house and library, and took possession of the Church, marching into it with fife and drum playing. He fled from New York, took cold from his exposure and serious treatment, and died in 1777.

Robert Auchmuty, Jr., is styled on the Probate Records of Suffolk an "Absentee." He was a Tory, and left Boston when the British troops evacuated it in March, 1776, and finally went to England, where he died. He was an able lawyer of extensive practice, especially in Admiralty Courts. With John Adams he con-

ducted the defence of Capt. Preston of the "Bloody Boston Massacre," March, 1770.*

Mr. Pratt at one time contemplated the writing of a History of New England, and collected valuable material for that purpose. It has been supposed by good judges of his day that his method of treating the subject of the early settlement of that region would have taken a somewhat different range from that adopted by his clerical predecessors in that direction, as is usual when matters are presented by the different professions of law and divinity. None of his manuscripts are now known as existing, save the letter of his, which we have printed above, and some few legal documents or Legislative reports drawn up by him while serving the Town of Boston as one of the Representatives to the General Court, a position he held for three successive years, in May, 1757, '58, and '59.

He was termed an ardent Whig, and was the warm personal friend of Governor Pownall, who also favored the same principles. At the time of Mr. Pratt's death the causes which brought on the American Revolution had not progressed so far in opposition to the British Crown as to enable us now to judge what advanced views he might have entertained in relation to the proceedings which ultimately terminated in establishing the Independence of the Colonies. We know that Oxenbridge Thatcher was one of his most intimate and respected friends, and was one of his executors. After Mr. Pratt's decease that gentleman became one of the

* For further notices of this family see Sabine's "American Loyalists."

most zealous and influential actors in New England in the support of the patriots and their measures.

Judge Pratt's will is dated December 29, 1762, a few days before his death at New York, January 6, 1763. It is said by his kinsmen, that he had intended to spend the evening of his days at Milton, Mass., where he had purchased a considerable estate as already mentioned. Among the "Live Stock and Farm Utensils" mentioned in the inventory of his estate were the following items: — One negro Male Slave valued at £13, 6 shillings, 8 pence; one negro Female Slave valued at £30.

From the Boston News Letter of January 27, 1763, we copy the following: —

"The last post brought an account of the death of Benjamin Pratt, Esq., late of this town, which happened at New York the 6th instant. He was Chief Justice, and a member of the Council for that Province, to which honorable and important offices his merit and abilities had raised him. The following lines dedicated to his memory please insert in your paper.

"With ardent love for ancient wisdom fired
And with a genius Heaven alone inspired,
He rifled Rome of all its mighty store
And still athirst to Athens went for more.
Both now exhausted, from the modern page
Fraught with the sense of each preceding age,
He seized its treasures, made them all his own,
And midst the sons of Science greatly shone.
In him, though Science did its rays unite,
And shed around him its distinguished light,

'Twas but a second merit. Virtue more
Adorned the man than all his learning's store.
To Heaven now fled, beyond all mortal ken,
He rivals Angels as he rivaled men."

Holmes's "Annals" says that "He was conspicuous for learning and eloquence. . . . He was a bold and ardent friend to Freedom."*

February 2, 1790. In a sketch of the proceedings of the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on the subject of the "Bar Call" printed in the "Herald of Freedom," it is said: — "Mr. Gardiner, of Pownalborough, [Me.] addressed the Legislature. He said that he studied law for three years in the office of the late Mr. Pratt, who afterwards died Chief Justice of New York, from the latter part of the year 1755 to the middle of the year 1758. No such monster as the 'Bar Call' was known in this country. There were then seven Professors of the Law in this town: — Mr. Pratt, whose utmost gains never exceeded £750 a year, Mr. Gridley, Mr. Otis, Mr. Thacher, as honest a man as ever breathed the breath of life, Mr. Auchmuty, Mr. Swift and Mr. Kent, the last of whom was the chimney-sweep of the bar, into whose black dock entered every dirty action."

The children of Judge Benjamin Pratt were:

64 Isabella,[4] b. ——— ; m. Samuel S. Wells, of Boston, Dec. 17, 1772.

* Some notices of Judge Pratt will also be found in Drake's Biographical Dictionary and Knapp's Biographical Sketches, p. 163.

65 Benjamin,[4] bapt. in King's Chapel, Jan. 20, 1757–8; he was a pupil at the Boston Latin School in 1767; he studied law with Judge Dana; he went to Carolina, and died there about 1783. He left no children.

66 George,[4] b. ——— ; d. without leaving children.

67 Frederick,[4] b. ——— ; he suffered from feeble health and became a school teacher. He died without leaving children.

Fourth Generation.

46 Samuel[4] (*Samuel*,[3] *Samuel*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Middleborough, Mass., May 15, 1697. He married (1) Jerusha ——, who died ———, and he married (2) about 1751, Sarah, daughter of Samuel and Silence (Short) Fuller. She died in November, 1794, aged 64 years. The names of his children, if any, have not been ascertained.

47 John[4] (*Samuel*,[3] *Samuel*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Middleborough, Mass., August 22, 1700. He married (1) Hannah Turner, February 18, 1725; he married (2) Elizabeth ——. John died before his father, and the children who are named in his father's will, were probably still living in 1745, but the dates of birth and their order have not been found.

The following are the children so far as information has been obtained. Possibly there were others:

68 John.[5]

69 Jedediah.[5]

70 Hannah.[5]

71 Keziah.[5]

72 Sarah.[5]

48 Nathan[4] (*Samuel*,[3] *Samuel*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Middleborough, Mass., June 20, 1703; he married, June 16, 1747, Margaret Sampson.

Their children were:

73 Jerusha,[5] b. July 10, 1751.
74 Nathan,[5] b. July 9, 1752; m. Betty Howland, Oct. 17, 1776.
75 Betta[5] [Elizabeth], b. May 21, 1755.
76 Micah,[5] b. June 14, 1758.
77 Sylvanus,[5] b. Feb. 23, 1761.

51 Phinehas[4] (*Samuel*,[3] *Samuel*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Middleborough, Mass., probably about 1710; he married Sarah, the daughter of Benjamin White, Jr.

Their children were:

78 Abner,[5] b. ———.
79 Zebulon,[5] b. ———.
80 Ruth,[5] b. ———; d. young.
81 Hannah,[5] b. ———; m. Capt. Benj. Leonard.

54 Lemuel[4] (*Henry*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was probably born at Newton, Mass.; he married (1) Hannah Leonard, of Taunton, Mass., and (2) in 1750, Lydia Willard, of Newton.

I have the name of only one child; possibly there were others:

82 Lemuel,[5] b. ———; m. —— Danforth.

57 John[4] (*Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, Mass., in 1729; he married (1) Bethia Tower; and (2)

Susannah Simmons, of Duxbury, Mass. Conflicting dates of his marriage and of his death have been furnished, and I have been unable to ascertain which are correct. It seems probable, however, from the information given, that he died August 19, 1775, and his second wife, Susannah, December 17, 1776. He was a farmer, and resided at Cohasset.

He had one son, and possibly other children who were older:

83 John,[5] b. Jan. 1, 1775; m. Zoa Whitcomb; d. Nov. 29, 1824.

58 Aaron[4] (*Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset; he m. —— Collier, of Scituate, Mass., in 1758. He resided at Cohasset, Mass., until his death.

Their children, who were born at Cohasset, were:

84 Mary,[5] b. March 7, 1759.
85 Aaron,[5] b. Oct. 15, 1760; m. about 1781, S. Beal.
86 Samuel,[5] b. April 11, 1762; m. ———.
87 Jershom[5] [? Gershom], b. Feb. 17, 1764; he married and had issue, but particulars have not been learned.
88 Jennet,[5] b. Feb. 3, 1766; m. —— Marble, of Springfield, Vermont.
89 Susie,[5] b. Aug. 9, 1767; m. —— Wheelwright, of Cohasset.
90 Rebecca,[5] b. May 19, 1769; m. —— Bates, of Cohasset.
91 Anna,[5] b. Oct. 8, 1770; m. —— Whitcomb, of Springfield, Vermont.
92 Daniel,[5] b. Dec. 20, 1771.
93 Bridget,[5] b. May 1, 1773.
94 Jacob,[5] b. Aug. 7, 1774; m. ———.
95 Molly,[5] b. Aug., 1776; m. —— Prentiss, of Springfield, Vt.

96 Caty[5] [Catharine], b. March 7, 1778.

97 Ezekiel,[5] b. May 20, 1780; m. (1) Clara, dau. of Col. Thos. Lothrop; she d. Feb. 10, 1809, and he m. (2) Merriel, dau. of Dea. Uriah Lincoln, who d. Jan. 10, 1855.

98 Moses,[5] b. Jan. 17, 1783.

99 Southworth,[5] b. Nov. 7, 1784.

59 Thomas[4] (*Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, November 25, 1736. He married his cousin Sarah,[4] daughter of Rev. Jonathan and (38) Abigail[3] (Pratt) Neal; she died May 14, 1806. He died October 18, 1818; he resided at Cohasset.

Their children were as a family, remarkable for longevity; one living to be ninety-two, another to be ninety, and two others nearly reached that advanced age. They were born at Cohasset, and were:

100 Benjamin,[5] b. Dec. 1, 1766; d. Sept. 25, 1855, having nearly or quite reached the age attributed to the original settler, and retained his physical strength until near the close of his life.

101 Abigail,[5] b. Feb. 17, 1768; m. (1) —— Burdenshaw, and (2) —— Scull; she d. Feb. 9, 1856, and is said never to have been ill enough to take medicine until her last sickness.

102 Sarah,[5] b. Jan. 25, 1769; m. Benj. Briggs, the father of Billings[6] Briggs, who was long a member of the Board of Aldermen, in the Boston City Government. She d. Mar. 6, 1835.

103 James,[5] b. Oct. 22, 1770; m. Elizabeth L. Burrill; d. Jan., 1795, at Martinique.

104 Thomas,[5] b. ——— ; d. in infancy.

105 Thomas,[5] b. April 25, 1773 ; m. Lucy, dau. of Job Turner, of Scituate ; d. Nov. 20, 1865, at Scituate.

106 Betsey,[5] b. Aug. 4, 1775 ; m. Caleb Mann, of Hanover, Mass.

107 David,[5] b. May 7, 1777 ; d. Sept. 15, 1812, at Portland, Me., unmarried.

108 Alice,[5] b. July 18, 1778 ; m. Capt. Wm. Kilburn, of Cohasset ; d. Nov. 14, 1867.

109 Job,[5] b. Dec. 1, 1779 ; m. (1) Lucretia Oaks, in 1801 ; she d. July 7, 1833, and he m. (2) Patience Cole, who d. Oct., 1840 ; he m. (3) Mary Howe, Sept., 1841 ; he d. at Cohasset, Jan. 7, 1853.

110 Henry,[5] b. Oct. 16, 1781 ; m. Clara Stockbridge, Dec. 2, 1818, who d. Oct. 6, 1839 ; he d. at Cohasset, Sept. 25, 1852.

111 Phinehas,[5] b. Jan. 23, 1783 ; d. at Boston, Feb. 7, 1825.

112 Eleazer,[5] b. Jan. 10, 1785 ; m. Mary, dau. of Capt. Stephen Jones, of Concord, Mass., Oct. 16, 1808 ; he d. at Boston, Aug. 21, 1849.

60 Joseph[4] (*Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was a farmer, and resided at Cohasset. Particulars of his birth, etc., have not been ascertained.

His children were :

113 Isabella,[5] b. ———.

114 Peggy,[5] b. ———.

115 Joseph,[5] b. ———.

116 Jennet,[5] b. ———.

117 Nancy,[5] b. ———.

Fifth Generation.

82 Lemuel[5] (*Lemuel,*[4] *Henry,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was a resident of Newton, Mass., where he was probably born. He married —— Danforth.

His children were :

118 Hannah,[6] b. ——— ; m. —— Danforth.
119 John,[6] b. ——— ; d. in infancy.
120 Elijah,[6] b. ——— ; d. in Maine.
121 Sarah,[6] b. ——— ; m. —— Kingsbury.
122 Samuel,[6] b. ——— ; a resident of Needham, Mass.
123 Benanuel,[6] b. ——— ; d. in Townsend, Mass.
124 Seth,[6] b. ——— ; m. —— Grant.
125 Paul,[6] b. ——— ; resided in Weston, Mass.
126 Cyrus,[6] b. ——— ; resided at Needham, Mass.
127 Lydia,[6] b. ——— ; m. Aaron Smith, of Needham, Mass.

83 Major John[5] (*John,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, January 1, 1775 ; he married Zoa Whitcomb, and died November 29, 1824. He has been described by those who remember him, as a remarkably handsome man, and eminently social in his habits ; he was a farmer in Cohasset.

Their children were :

128 Minot,[6] b. Feb. 5, 1802 ; d. in 1804.
129 Harriet,[6] b. Sept. 17, 1804.
130 Marshall,[6] b. Mar. 25, 1806.
131 Minot,[6] b. Feb. 5, 1808 ; m. Lillie Pratt.
132 Isaac S.,[6] b. Feb. 21, 1810.

133 Lucy,[6] b. Dec. 20, 1812.

134 John,[6] b. Nov. 12, 1814; d. in 1815.

135 Richard L.,[6] b. Feb. 1, 1816.

136 Lot,[6] b. Nov. 13, 1818; m. Mary, dau. of Benj. Hall, of Boston.

137 Sarah L.,[6] b. Feb. 2, 1820.

138 Aaron,[6] b. Mar. 22, 1822.

139 George,[6] b. Aug. 17, 1824.

85 Aaron[5] (*Aaron*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, October 15, 1760; he married S. Beal, about 1781; and was a mariner. His home was at Cohasset.

His children were:

140 Ebenezer,[6] b. Mar. 21, 1782. (An Ebenezer Pratt was made a Mason in The Massachusetts Lodge in Boston, Nov. 25, 1805, and took membership therein, which he retained until April 24, 1809, when he resigned; but we are unable to identify him with certainty as the one here named. He was perhaps a mariner.)

141 Peter,[6] b. July 18, 1784; m. (1) Polly Whitcomb, who d. May 12, 1827; he m. (2) Mary R. Roulstone, and d. July 24, 1854.

142 Lydia,[6] b. Nov. 9, 1786.

143 Merritt,[6] b. Oct. 21, 1789.

144 Olive,[6] b. Mar. 6, 1792; m. Levi Cushing, of Hingham, Mass.

145 Aaron,[6] b. Mar. 21, 1794; d. July, 1821, while on his homeward voyage, returning from the West Indies, as the mate of a vessel.

146 Eliza,[6] b. June 4, 1799.

86 Samuel[5] (*Aaron,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, April 11, 1762; he married and had a family at Cohasset, where he resided.

His children were:

147 Paul,[6] b. May 17, 1788; m. Ann, dau. of Joseph Eustis, of Boston.

148 Betsey,[6] b. April 29, 1792; m. Samuel Snow.

149 Polly,[6] b. Jan. 27, 1794; m. —— Welch, of Cohasset.

150 Anna,[6] b. Nov. 14, 1796; m. Zeno Stoddard.

151 Olive,[6] b. Dec. 30, 1798; m. George Beal.

152 Samuel,[6] b. May 5, 1802; he m. three times, but I have no particulars.

153 Lucinda,[6] b. Mar. 2, 1804; m. Asa Nute, of Boston.

94 Jacob[5] (*Aaron,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]). He was born at Cohasset, August 7, 1774. Further particulars are lacking.

His children were:

154 Elisha W.,[6] b. ———.

155 Lillie Y.,[6] b. ———. She is presumably the "Lillie Pratt" who married (131) Minot[6] Pratt.

156 Olive L.,[6] b. ———.

97 Dr. Ezekiel[5] (*Aaron,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset,* May 20, 1780; he m. (1) Clara, daughter of Col. Thomas Lothrop, who died in childbirth February 10, 1809. He married as his second wife, in 1809, Merriel, the daughter of Deacon Uriah Lincoln. She died January 10,

* See a brief account of the house in which he was born, on page 65 *supra.*

1855. He was for many years engaged in the practice of medicine at Cohasset, where he was greatly beloved, and was widely known for his skill.

His children were:

157 Jane,[6] b. Oct. 26, 1801; m. Ephraim Nute.
158 Ezekiel,[6] b. April 8, 1805; d. Jan. 26, 1816.
159 Nichols,[6] b. Feb. 10, 1809; m. Ruth Snow; d. Sept. 20, 1848.

By his second wife he had:

160 Mary L.,[6] b. July 17, 1810; m. David Wilson, who d. Mar. 6, 1850.
161 Henry,[6] b. Sept. 23, 1812; m. Eunice Lothrop.
162 Ezekiel,[6] b. Dec. 9, 1816; d. in Dec., 1862.
163 Francis L.,[6] b. Sept. 15, 1818; m. Sarah Stoddard.
164 Henrietta L.,[6] b. April 7, 1820; m. James Bates; d. Nov. 29, 1850.

98 Moses[5] (*Aaron,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, January 17, 1783. He was married and resided at Cohasset; but I have no further particulars.

His children were:

165 Joel G.,[6] b. ——; d. at Cohasset ——.
166 George L.,[6] b. ——; m. Dorcas Wood.
167 Frederick W.,[6] b. ——; d. ——.

100 Benjamin[5] (*Thomas,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, December 1, 1766. He married ——, and

died September 25, 1855; he was a farmer and resided in Cohasset; in an account of the inscriptions in the Copps Hill Burying ground, where his youngest brother Eleazer was interred, reference is made to the remarkable vigor of Benjamin after he had passed his eighty-second year.*

His children were:

168 Jairus,[6] b. at Cohasset, Dec. 26, 1793; m. (1) June 17, 1817, Elizabeth Beal, of Cohasset; she d. in 1836, and he m. (2) Deborah Cutler; he d. at Boston, in 1869.

169 Howard,[6] b. ——— ; d. Mar., 1879.

170 Benjamin,[6] b. ——— ; d. ———.

171 Ira,[6] b. ———.

172 Mary,[6] b. ——— ; m. Cushing Elms, of Scituate.

103 James[5] (*Thomas*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, October 22, 1770. He married Elizabeth L. Burrill, of Hingham; he died in January, 1795, at Martinique. His widow married as her second husband William Stetson, of Cohasset.

His children were:

173 Sarah N.,[6] b. ——— ; m. —— Hobart, and d. at Charlestown, Mass.

174 Olive B.,[6] b. ——— ; m. —— Brooks; she died at Cohasset, Dec. 28, 1867.

* Joseph Pratt, who died August 27, 1719, and was buried (as his tombstone in Copps Hill Burying ground states) September 11, aged 30, may perhaps have been a grandson of Phinehas.[1]

105 Capt. Thomas[5] (*Thomas,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born April 25, 1773. He married Lucy, daughter of Job Turner, of Scituate, October 9, 1808. In early life he was a mariner. He removed from Cohasset, where he was born, to Scituate, about 1813, where he became a farmer. He died November 20, 1865, at Scituate.

His children were:

175 Thomas,[6] b. at Cohasset, May 23, 1810; m. Fidelia Clark, of Chelsea, Mass., in 1842; d. Feb. 28, 1846, at Chelsea.

176 William,[6] b. at Cohasset, June 21, 1812; m. Phebe A. Clark, of Chelsea, Mass, May 26, 1842.

177 Allen,[6] b. at Scituate, Sept. 7, 1814; m. Oriann Lawrence, of Chelsea.

178 Sophia,[6] b. at Scituate, Jan. 23, 1819; m. (1) the Rev. Reuben Curtis; she m. (2) —— Curtis, a brother of her first husband; and (3) ——.

109 Deacon Job[5] (*Thomas,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]) was born at Cohasset, December 1, 1779; he married (1) Lucretia Oaks, in 1801; she died July 7, 1833, and he married (2) Patience Cole, who died in October, 1840; he married as his third wife, Mary Howe, in September, 1841. He died January 7, 1853, at Cohasset. He was a farmer, and for some years was one of the Deacons of the First Church of Cohasset.

His children, who were born at Cohasset, were:

179 James,[6] b. Jan. 9, 1802; m. ——— Betsey Wilcutt, of Cohasset; d. July 15, 1837.

180 George,[6] b. Mar. 4, 1804; d. young.

181 Sarah,[6] b. Dec. 31, 1807; m. Thomas J. Brown, of Cohasset; d. July 25, 1838.

182 George,[6] b. Aug. 5, 1812; m. (1) Elizabeth B. Wilson, who d. Mar. 20, 1847; m. (2) Emeline J. Battles, in 1848.

183 Thomas,[6] b. April 7, 181–; m. —— Tower.

184 Job,[6] b. May 14, 1819; m. Susan G. Nichols.

By his second wife he had:

185 Harvey M.,[6] b. June 7, 1835.

110 Henry[5] (*Thomas,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, October 16, 1781; he married Clara Stockbridge, December 2, 1818, who died October 6, 1839; he was a farmer and resided at Cohasset, where he died September 25, 1852.

His children were:

186 Adeline,[6] b. Sept. 21, 1819.

187 Louisa,[6] b. Nov. 13, 1821.

188 Hannah,[6] b. Aug. 9, 1824.

189 Henry T.,[6] b. Nov. 11, 1829; d. at Cohasset, Feb. 29, 1864.

111 Phinehas[5] (*Thomas,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, January 23, 1783; he was a housewright, and removed from Cohasset to Boston about 1800. He died at Boston, February 7, 1825.

His children were:

190 Phinehas Neal,[6] b. Sept., 1808; d. at Chelsea, Mass., April 14, 1886, aged 79 years and 7 months; he was a tailor.

191 Sarah,[6] b. ——— ; d. in infancy.

192 Sarah Ann,[6] b. ——— ; m. —— Woodbury.

193 William Henry,[6] b. ———.

194 Maria Alice,[6] b. ———.

195 Caroline Elizabeth,[6] b. ———.

196 Asa Thomas,[6] b. Dec. 10, 1820.

112 Eleazer[5] (*Thomas*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, January 10, 1785; he married Mary, daughter of Capt. Stephen Jones, of Concord, Mass., October 16, 1808; he left Cohasset for Boston about 1801; he was a shipwright; he died August 21, 1849, of Asiatic cholera, at Boston, and was interred in Copps Hill Burying ground.

His children were:

197 Louisa Jones,[6] b. Aug. 5, 1809; m. Nathan Carruth, Dec. 2, 1830; d. at Boston, Feb. 10, 1844.

198 Franklin,[6] b. ——— ; d. in infancy.

199 Eleazer Franklin,[6] b. May 14, 1813; m. (1) Catherine Blake Stetson, Nov. 15, 1838, who was b. June 28, 1814, and d. May 28, 1853; he m. (2) Frances C. Barnard, Dec. 7, 1854, who was b. July 7, 1830; he d. Oct. 14, 1888. [Compiler of this volume.]

200 Charles,[6] b. Nov. 20, 1815; m. Sarah Cobb, of Roxbury, Mass.

201 Caroline,[6] b. April 8, 1818; m. Henry S. Bowen, of Ascutneyville, Vt., Nov. 11, 1841; she d. at Ascutneyville, March 6, 1883.

202 Helen Maria,[6] b. March 18, 1821; m. James W. Hobbs, of Boston, April 26, 1842.

203 Emily,[6] b. Oct. 25, 1826; m. Chester H. Carruth, of Boston, Oct. 9, 1851.

SIXTH GENERATION.

120 Elijah[6] (*Lemuel,*[5] *Lemuel,*[4] *Henry,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]). He died in Maine, whither he is said to have removed from Newton, Mass. I have only been able to learn that he had a daughter:

204 Mehitable,[7] b. ———.

122 Samuel[6] (*Lemuel,*[5] *Lemuel,*[4] *Henry,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was a resident of Needham, Mass.

His children were:

205 Samuel,[7] b. Jan. 31, 1778; d. young.

206 Lemuel,[7] b. about 1779; resided at Needham, Mass.

207 Jeremiah,[7] b. Mar. 16, 1780; resided at Montague, Mass.

208 Leonard,[7] b. ———; resided at Pembroke, and afterwards removed to Pepperell, Mass.

209 Cyrus,[7] b. ———; a resident of Needham, Mass.

210 Lydia,[7] b. July 27, 1784; m. —— Spear. To this lady the compiler is indebted for most of the record of the descendants of Henry[3] Pratt (Aaron,[2] Phinehas[1]), her great-great-grandfather.

211 John,[7] b. ———; d. an infant.

123 Benanuel[6] (*Lemuel,*[5] *Lemuel,*[4] *Henry,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), resided at Townsend, Mass., where he died. I am informed that he had five daughters and two sons, but have only the name of one daughter:

212 Betsey,[7] b. ———; m. Buckley Hodgman, of Camden, Me.; she was the mother of the Rev. Edwin R.[8] Hodgman, born in Camden, Me., in 1819.

124 Seth[6] (*Lemuel,*[5] *Lemuel,*[4] *Henry,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), removed to Bucksport, Maine, where he married —— Grant, who died early. He had two sons and one daughter, whose names are unknown to me.

125 Paul[6] (*Lemuel,*[5] *Lemuel,*[4] *Henry,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was a farmer and resided at Weston, Mass.

His children were:

213 Ephraim,[7] b. ———.
214 Susan,[7] b. ———.
215 Lydia,[7] b. ———; m. —— Green (or Greenwood), of Newton, Mass.
216 Hannah,[7] b. ———; m. —— Mackintosh.
217 Paul,[7] b. ———; he settled at Chicago, Ill.
218 Samuel,[7] b. ———; became a resident of Waltham.

126 Cyrus[6] (*Lemuel,*[5] *Lemuel,*[4] *Henry,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was a farmer, and resided at Needham, Mass.

His children were:

219 Hannah,[7] b. ———; m. —— Fisk, of Needham, Mass.
220 Mary,[7] b. ———.

131 Minot[6] (*John,*[5] *John,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, February 5, 1808; he married Lillie[6] Pratt, who was, I suppose, the daughter of (94) Jacob[5] Pratt.*

Their children were:

221 Galen L.,[7] b. ———; d. ———.
222 Alonzo A.,[7] b. ———.
223 John J.,[7] b. ———.

* One of this name (Minot Pratt) was a printer in Boston, in 1841, but has not been identified as the descendant of Phinehas.

141 Peter[6] (*Aaron*,[5] *Aaron*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, July 18, 1784; he married (1) Polly Whitcomb, who died May 12, 1827; he married (2) Mary R. Roulstone. He died July 24, 1854. He was a master mariner, and resided at Cohasset.

His children were:

224 William,[7] b. Feb. 24, 1809; m. Deborah N. Bates.

225 Galen J.,[7] b. Feb. 8, 1811; m. Mary B. Barker; d. March 20, 1840.

226 Catharine C.,[7] b. Feb. 7, 1814; m. John Parkinson; d. March 15, 1851.

227 Mary A.,[7] b. Oct. 12, 1815; d. March 21, 1821.

228 Sylvanus Gray,[7] b. June 17, 1817; m. Harriet Adams.

229 Maria,[7] b. Nov. 23, 1823; m. Job A. Turner, who was a builder and housewright in Boston, in 1840 and many years later; in 1864 he was Treasurer of the Bay State Brick Company, and afterwards of the George F. Blake Manufacturing Company, until his death, March 12, 1886. They had a son, Job A.,[8] Jr., who was born in Boston, and resided there untill 1885, when he removed to Carver, Mass. There may have been other children.

By his second wife he had:

230 Georgiana C.,[7] b. Aug. 8, 1827; d. March 27, 1838.

231 Mary C.,[7] b. June 3, 1831; d. ———.

232 Charlotte R.,[7] b. Oct. 31, 1833; m. James O. Josselyn.

143 Merritt[6] (*Aaron*,[5] *Aaron*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born October 21, 1789; he married and had a daughter who was the wife of Caleb Pratt; her name I have not obtained.

147 Paul[6] (*Samuel,*[5] *Aaron,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born May 17, 1788; he married Ann, daughter of Joseph Eustis, of Boston.

His children were:

233 Joseph Eustis,[7] b. Feb. 5, 1810; m. Amelia Ann Runyan, of Lockport, Ill., about 1838.
234 Lincoln,[7] b. Oct. 18, 1812.
235 Sarah Sigourney,[7] b. Nov. 7, 1815.
236 Hannah Eustis,[7] b. Jan. 8, 1819.
237 Caroline,[7] b. Sept. 2, 1821.
238 Benjamin Franklin,[7] b. July 10, 1824. One of this name was a manufacturer of gold pens in Boston, 1848–9.

163 Francis L.[6] (*Ezekiel,*[5] *Aaron,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, September 14, 1818; he married Sarah Stoddard. He was a housewright, and resided at Cohasset.

He had a son:

239 Gustavus P.,[7] b. at Cohasset, Feb. 14, 1840; d. at Cohasset, April 29, 1887.

166 George L.[6] (*Moses,*[5] *Aaron,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset; he married Dorcas Wood.

His children were:

240 Moses,[7] b. ———.
241 Lucinda,[7] b. ———; she was killed by lightning.

168 Jairus[6] (*Benjamin,*[5] *Thomas,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, December 26, 1793. He married (1) Elizabeth Beal, of Cohasset, June 17, 1817. She died in

1836, and he married (2) Deborah Cutler, of Boston. He was a shipwright and calker, and removed to East Boston, where he was engaged in business until his death, in 1869. His widow died in East Boston in 1887 or '88.

He had fifteen children, all of whose names I have been unable to obtain, and the order of birth of those given below is somewhat uncertain :

242 Jairus,[7] (Jr.) b. ———. (He may perhaps be the Jairus who was at the Boston Latin School in 1838.) With Timothy Pratt, Jr., he was engaged for a short time in business as a shipbuilder, in East Boston; subsequently he held a position with Donald McKay, the famous shipbuilder; in 1869 he is said to have resided at Fairmount, and then to have removed to Hyde Park, devoting himself to real estate matters, with an office in Boston until 1876 or 1877.

243 Sarah,[7] b. ———.

244 Isaac L.,[7] b. ———; a shipwright and calker; died in East Boston July 19, 1885.

245 Martha L.,[7] b. ———.

169 Howard[6] (*Benjamin*,[5] *Thomas*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born in Cohasset, where he resided until he died in March, 1879. He was a farmer.

His children were :

246 Anna M.,[7] b. ———.

247 Caroline E.,[7] b. ———.

248 Samuel E.,[7] b. ———.

249 Phinehas H.,[7] b. ———.

170 Benjamin[6] (*Benjamin,*[5] *Thomas,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), resided at Cohasset.

His children were:

250 Catharine L.,[7] b. ———.
251 Sarah E.,[7] b. ———.
252 Ira B.,[7] b. ———.

175 Thomas[6] (*Thomas,*[5] *Thomas,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, May 23, 1810. He married Fidelia Clark, of Chelsea, Mass., in 1842. He was a housewright, and died at Boston, February 28, 1846.

His children were:

253 Thomas Hanson,[7] b. Sept. 20, 1843; d. in infancy.
254 Abbie Delia,[7] b. Jan. 26, 1845; d. in infancy.

176 William[6] (*Thomas,*[5] *Thomas,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, Mass., June 21, 1812; he married Phebe A. Clark, of Chelsea, Mass., May 26, 1842, where he resided, and was a housewright.

His children were:

255 George William,[7] b. July 10, 1843.
256 Charles Hanson,[7] b. Oct. 12, 1845; d. Dec. 27, 1849.
257 Allen Thomas,[7] b. May 27, 1848; d. in infancy.
258 Charles Hanson,[7] b. May 21, 1851.

177 Allen[6] (*Thomas,*[5] *Thomas,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Scituate, Mass., September 7, 1814; he married Oriann Lawrence, of Chelsea, whither he removed, making that city his home; he was engaged in the real estate busi-

ness there for many years. He died in Chelsea, January 4, 1892.

He had a daughter, and perhaps other children :

259 Alice Lawrence,[7] b. April 5, 1854.

179 James[6] (*Job*,[5] *Thomas*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, January 9, 1802 ; he married Betsey Wilcutt, of Cohasset, and died July 15, 1837. He was a master mariner, and his home was at Scituate, Mass.

His children were :

260 James A.,[7] b. ———.
261 Caroline E.,[7] b. ———.
262 Lucretia Oaks,[7] b. ———.

182 George[6] (*Job*,[5] *Thomas*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, August 5, 1812; he removed to Griggsville, Ill. He married (1) Elizabeth B. Wilson, who died March 20, 1847, and he married (2) Emeline J. Battles, in 1848.

His children were :

263 George,[7] b. ———.
264 Elizabeth,[7] b. ———.

184 Job[6] (*Job*,[5] *Thomas*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, May 14, 1819; he married Susan G. Nichols, and was a housewright at Cohasset.

His children were :

265 Susan C.,[7] b. Feb. 2, 1846.
266 Mary M.,[7] b. in 1847.

199 Eleazer Franklin[6] (*Eleazer*,[5] *Thomas*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Boston, May 14, 1813; he married (1) Catharine Blake Stetson, of Boston, November 15, 1838, who was born June 28, 1814; she died May 18, 1853, and he married (2) Frances C. Barnard, December 7, 1854, who was born July 7, 1830, and is still living. He died October 14, 1888. He was a merchant, and a resident of Boston. His portrait will be found facing the title-page of the present volume which, as stated in the introductory pages, has been printed from the manuscript notes which he compiled.*

His children (by his first wife) were:

267 Franklin Stetson,[7] b. Jan. 3, 1840; unm.

268 Charles Herbert,[7] b. June 19, 1848; unm.; he is a counsellor-at-law, and resides in Boston, where he is now practicing his profession.

200 Charles[6] (*Eleazer*,[5] *Thomas*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Boston, November 20, 1815; he married Sarah Cobb, of Roxbury, Mass. He was a farmer, and resided at South Braintree, Mass.

His children were:

269 Louisa Carruth,[7] b. Oct. 31, 1841.

270 Charles Eleazer,[7] b. Jan. 27, 1844.

271 Sarah Emily,[7] b. Sept. 19, 1846.

272 Mary Jones,[7] b. June 24, 1854.

273 Frank Appleton,[7] b. Oct. 23, 1856.

274 Helen Maria,[7] b. Aug. 9, 1861.

* With very few exceptions, where the dates of deaths have been added which have come to our knowledge since his decease, the manuscript is printed as he left it, with such changes in arrangement as would make it more convenient for tracing the various lines of descent.

SEVENTH GENERATION.

206 Lemuel[7] (*Samuel,*[6] *Lemuel,*[5] *Lemuel,*[4] *Henry,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born about 1779; he resided at Needham, Mass., which was probably his birthplace.

His children were:

275 Samuel S.,[8] b. ———.
276 Lemuel A.,[8] b. ———.
277 Angeline C.,[8] b. ———.
278 Henrietta H.,[8] b. ———.

207 Jeremiah[7] (*Samuel,*[6] *Lemuel,*[5] *Lemuel,*[4] *Henry,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born March 16, 1780; he removed to Montague, Mass., from Needham, his father's home.

His children were:

279 Lucretia,[8] b. ———; m. —— Creig.
280 Elnora,[8] b. ———.
281 Samuel,[8] b. ———; a farmer, and resided at Montague, Mass.
282 Fannie,[8] b. ———.

208 Leonard[7] (*Samuel,*[6] *Lemuel,*[5] *Lemuel,*[4] *Henry,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), removed to Pembroke, Mass., and afterwards became a resident of Pepperell, Mass., but I have no further particulars.

His children were:

283 Ira,[8] b. ———; of Pepperell, Mass.
284 Eliza,[8] b. ———; she went to Illinois.
285 Leonard,[8] b. ———; resided at Salem, Mass.
286 Lydia,[8] b. ———; resided at Pepperell, Mass.

209 Cyrus[7] (*Samuel,*[6] *Lemuel,*[5] *Lemuel,*[4] *Henry,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), the youngest son of Samuel who survived infancy, appears to have remained at Needham.

I have obtained no information excepting the names of his children, as given below:

287 Samuel,[8] b. ——— ; settled at Dover.
288 Joseph,[8] b. ——— ; d. ——— leaving two children.
289 Isaac P.,[8] b. ——— ; a resident of Framingham; he is reported to have died leaving two children in Bellingham, Mass.
290 Eunice M.,[8] b. ——— ; m. —— Watkins, of Boston.

228 . Sylvanus Gray[7] (*Peter,*[6] *Aaron,*[5] *Aaron,*[4] *Aaron,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, June 17, 1817; he married Harriet Adams. He engaged in the trunk and harness-making business in Boston, and was of the firm of Slater & Pratt, in 1842 or '43, having his home in Boston until 1852; he then resumed his residence in Cohasset until 1855, when he returned to Boston; later he resided on Prospect Hill, in Somerville, and thence removed to Hyde Park, where he died about 1871.

His children were:

291 Frank,[8] b. July 5, 1846.
292 Harriet Frances,[8] b. Dec. 23, 1849.
293 Sylvanus Gray (Jr.),[8] b. March 19, 1854.
294 Esther Maria,[8] b. June 20, 1856.
295 Aaron,[8] b. Sept. 3, 1860.
296 Charles Henry,[8] b. April 19, 1863.

233 Joseph Eustis[7] (*Paul*,[6] *Samuel*,[5] *Aaron*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born February 5, 1810. He married about 1838, Amelia Ann Runyan, of Lockport, Ill. He was a resident of St. Louis, Mo., in 1848.

His children were :

297 Amelia,[8] b. 1839 ; d. at Lockport, Ill., in 1840.
298 Joseph,[8] b. Nov. 12, 1841.
299 Juliet,[8] b. Sept. 16, 1845.

239 Dr. Gustavus P.[7] (*Francis L.*,[6] *Ezekiel*,[5] *Aaron*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Cohasset, February 14, 1840. He entered Phillips Exeter Academy in 1857, and graduated at the head of his class in 1860. Three years later he graduated at the Boston Medical College. He was appointed, by Gov. Andrew, First Lieutenant, with the rank of Assistant Surgeon in the Thirty-Second Massachusetts Regiment, December 7, 1863, and November 23, 1864, was promoted Brigade Surgeon, with the rank of Major, and served in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Regiments until the close of the war. He was mustered out June 30, 1865, and went into business as a druggist, in Chicago. A year later he returned to Cohasset, where he practiced medicine with great success. He died at Cohasset, April 29, 1887.

267 Franklin Stetson[7] (*Eleazer F.*,[6] *Eleazer*,[5] *Thomas*,[4] *Aaron*,[3] *Aaron*,[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was born at Boston, January 3, 1840. He is unmarried and resides in his native city. He has been engaged in business there, having held for many years important positions in the Fitchburg Railroad Com-

pany. He has long been interested in Freemasonry, holding office in the Scottish rite, and is an Honorary and Life Member of Columbian Lodge, A. F. and A. M., of Boston.

275 Samuel S.[8] (*Lemuel,*[7] *Samuel,*[6] *Lemuel,*[5] *Lemuel,*[4] *Henry,*[3] *Aaron,*[2] *Phinehas*[1]), was a resident of Needham, Mass. His children were :

300 Ann F.,[9] b. ———.
301 Sarah E.,[9] b. ———.
302 Eliza R.,[9] b. ———.

The records of the Town of Boston mention the marriage of a John Pratt to Margaret Maverick, July 29, 1691 ; the ceremony being performed by Elisha Hutchinson. They had the following children :

Margaret, b. March 1, 1694.
Abigail, b. May 17, 1696.
Mary, b. Aug. 22, 1698.
Elizabeth, b. Aug. 24, 1700.

While unable to connect them certainly, with Phinehas, it seems quite probable that this John was the son of John,[2] a grandson of Phinehas.

IN MEMORIAM.

ELEAZER FRANKLIN PRATT.

THE death of Mr. E. F. Pratt, the compiler of this volume, occurred suddenly, after a very brief illness. He had been prominent for so many years among Boston merchants, and was so widely known and beloved, that several eulogistic notices of his life and character appeared in the newspapers of the day, showing the esteem in which he was so generally held by his fellow-citizens. It has been thought proper to complete the record of the family in whose annals he felt so deep an interest, by selecting two of these notices for preservation; they are printed below.

The following appeared in the "Boston Evening Transcript" of October 16, 1888:—

"The Hon. Eleazer Franklin Pratt, who died suddenly of pneumonia, on Sunday evening, October 14, was a much re-

spected Boston gentleman. His face was well known on State street for more than forty years. He was formerly of the firm of Pratt & King, India street, but retired with a competency about the time of the war. He was a scholarly man, and was particularly interested in the study of theology and history. He was born at the North End, and was a pupil in the Eliot School, in which he received a 'Franklin Medal' in 1826. He was a member of the late James Freeman Clarke's society. . . . "

The following kindly and appreciative tribute to his memory from the pen of the historian, Alexander Young, Esq., appeared in the "Boston Post," October 18, 1888:—

"Mr. Eleazer Franklin Pratt, whose funeral takes place to-day, was an old-time Boston merchant, who always impressed me not only as a sterling representative of the class, but as illustrating in his mode of life that stability of attachment to the scenes amid which he had passed his active years, which is lacking in these days of change and transition. The pleasant house in Bowdoin street in which he died was his home for forty-three years; he was, in fact, the sole survivor of the property owners in this street who used to live there till the character of the neighborhood changed, and boarding and lodging houses occupied the homes of the old-time merchants and professional men who gave dignity to them.

"It is interesting to recall the fact that he was a near neighbor of William Warren, with whom he had long enjoyed

a delightful friendship, and their deaths, so close upon each other, leave none of their contemporaries in the vicinity. Mr. Pratt, who had reached three-quarters of a century of life, made a trip to Europe about a year ago, and I was struck, in meeting him soon after his return, with his bright observations upon the places and people that he had seen on his travels. He enjoyed recalling the life of old-time Boston when it was a city of gardens and shaded streets, and its rich people thought more of substance than show. He had that creditable attachment to the lineage of his family which was shown in his history of one branch of it, and his contributions to the annals of the old North End illustrated the trend of his sympathies as a Bostonian.

"There was much in his early associations to foster this interest. As a boy, he lived in a house owned as well as occupied by his father, and owned by himself at the time of his death, in which Newman, the sexton, lived when he hung out the lanterns on Christ Church steeple, which started Paul Revere on his famous ride. This house is on the corner of Salem and Sheafe streets. Mr. Pratt's father owned the entire property where the South Ferry now stands, and which extended to North street, — Commercial street not having then been laid out.

"Mr. Pratt took great pride in showing his friends the stone which is still standing in the old Charlestown graveyard, which marks the grave of the first Pratt who came to this country in the second ship from England which brought the Pilgrims, and who married a daughter of one of the pas-

sengers in the Mayflower. 'There is no question about my Americanism,' Mr. Pratt used to pleasantly remark, 'I am descended from Plymouth Rock.' Directly back of the gravestone referred to are a number of stones which show the marks of the British artillery fire at Bunker Hill.

"The life of this courteous and cultured gentleman was a singularly happy one, and his death, surrounded by his family, was, as he wished, like falling to sleep. Retiring from active business about forty years ago, he had the tastes and the capacity for the enjoyment of leisure such as few of this generation of struggling money-getters are favored with. He took a deep interest in the course of good government, and was faithful in the performance of his duties as a citizen. His kindly instincts led him to aid those on whom fortune had turned her back, and his interest in young men was a pleasant feature of his genial activities."

PHINEHAS PRATT'S NARRATIVE

AND OTHER PAPERS.

WE have made frequent reference in the "Prelude" and also in the account of Phineas Pratt, the Founder of the family in America, which form the introductory portions of this volume, to the "Narrative" which he submitted to the General Court of Massachusetts; and some extracts are given from this interesting document, which was so happily discovered nearly two centuries after it was presented to the Legislature, when it had escaped the diligent search of several antiquarians who were familiar with the ancient archives.

This was prepared for publication and printed, with other papers relating to the events which it describes, by the late Richard Frothingham, Jr., of Charlestown, in the Fourth Volume of the Fourth Series of the Massachusetts Historical Society's Collections.

The editorial note which precedes the "Narrative" is so interesting, and is so valuable from its numerous references to

historical authorities, — some of which were contemporary with the Pilgrim, — that it seems desirable to avail ourselves of the permission given by the Society when it was first published, and to reprint, with Mr. Frothingham's Introduction, for the second time, (the first edition of 1858, one hundred copies, having long been exhausted,) these papers, as a suitable close to this account of the experiences of the "Old Planter." A description of the original manuscript will be found at the close of that Introduction. The document was unfortunately somewhat imperfect when found, a portion having been destroyed, as mentioned by Mr. Frothingham. The antique spelling is carefully followed.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY MR. FROTHINGHAM.

PHINEHAS PRATT was one of a company of about sixty, who were sent to Massachusetts to found a Colony by Thomas Weston, a London merchant, who was first a friend, and then a rival, of the Plymouth Colony. His patent is not known to be extant.

Pratt, with nine others, sailed from England in the Sparrow, which arrived at Damariscove Islands, in May, 1622. Here he, with others, left the vessel, in a shallop, and, after touching at several places on the coast, landed, in the latter part of May, at Plymouth. About the first of July, the Charity and the Swan, two other vessels sent out by Weston, also arrived; and subsequently a party left Plymouth in the Swan, and commenced the settlement at Wessaguscus, in the present town of Weymouth. Pratt was one of this company.

The head man of this Colony was Richard Greene, a brother-in-law of Weston, but he, dying on a subsequent visit to Plymouth, was succeeded by John Sanders. These settlers began "with little provision." "They neither applied themselves to planting of corn, nor taking of fish, more than for their present use; but went about to build castles in the air, and making of forts, neglecting the plentiful time of fishing. When winter came, their forts would not keep out hunger, and they, having no provision before hand, and wanting both powder and shot, to kill deer and fowl, many were starved to death, and the rest hardly escaped." [1]

The survivors of this Colony were then really in the power of the natives; and they were indebted to the courage, adroitness and endurance of Phinehas Pratt, for their deliverance and their lives. In the winter of 1623, the Indians matured a plan to cut off the English, both at Wessaguscus and Plymouth, in one day. Pratt, then about thirty-two years of age, had seen some of his companions die of starvation; and learning, in his intercourse with the Indians, of this scheme of massacre for the rest, resolved to send intelligence of it to Plymouth. When all refused to go, he determined to go himself; and by deceiving the savages, effected his escape. Though closely pursued, and suffering much in body and mind, he made good his way to Plymouth, which he reached on the 24th of March, 1623. His story corresponded with intelligence already received from Massasoit; [2] and hence Standish and his party, on the next day, started on the expedition which resulted in inflicting on Pecksuot and Wittewamut the doom which they had in store for the English, and in saving the remnant of the Colony.

1 Levett, "Voyage into New England, begun in 1623, and ended in 1624," printed in London in 1628. Chapt. 5.

2 Deane's Bradford, p. 131.

Pratt was too much exhausted to accompany Standish. On regaining strength, he went to Piscataqua, and was in skirmishes with the natives at Agawam and at Dorchester. Hence he sums up his early perils by saying: "Three times we fought with them; thirty miles I was pursued for my life, in a time of frost and snow, as a deer chased by wolves."

Pratt settled at Plymouth, and is termed "a joiner." In 1630, he married a daughter of Cuthbert Cuthbertson,[1] or Godbert Godbertson;[2] and his name, as inhabitant, occurs in the records as a freeman, rate payer, and grantee of lands, for many years. He is classed with the "Old Comers," and "Purchasers." Among the references to Pratt, is the following singular memorandum: —

"The fift of Novembr 1644. Memorand: that Thomas Bunting, dwelling wth Phineas Pratt, hath, wth and by the consent of the said Phineas, put himself as a servant to dwell wth John Cooke, Junir from the fifteenth day of this instant Novembr for and during the terme of eight yeares now next ensuing, and fully to be compleate and ended, the said John Cooke fynding vnto his said servant meate, drink, and apparell during the said terme, and in thend thereof double to apparell him throughout, and to pay him twelue bushells of Indian corne, the said John Cooke haueing payd the said Phineas for him one melch cowe, valued at Vli, and fourty shillings in money, and is to lead the said Phineas two loads of hey yearely during the terme of seauen yeares now next ensuinge."[3]

The same records have the following grant, under the date of June 5, 1658: —

"Liberty was granted by the Court, unto Phinehas Pratt, or any for him, to look out a parcel or tract of land to accommodate him and his posterity withall, together with other freeman or alone, as

1 Collections, 2d Series, vii., p. 122. 2 Plymouth Records, Vol. i., p. 159.
3 Plymouth Records, Vol. ii., p. 78.

he shall think meet, and to make report of the same unto the Court, that so a considerable proportion thereof may be confirmed unto him."[1]

Before this date, Pratt left Plymouth. In 1648, he purchased the place in Charlestown, on which probably he subsequently lived and died. In 1658, his name appears, with other inhabitants, in a division of lands. Four years later, in 1662, he presented to the General Court of Massachusetts what he terms "An History," called "A Declaration of the Affairs of the English People that first inhabited New England." Under the date of May 7, is the following record: "In answer to the petition of Phinehas Pratt, of Charlestown, who presented this Court with a narrative of the straits and hardships that the first planters of this Colony underwent, in their endeavors to plant themselves at Plymouth and since, whereof he was one, the Court judge it meet to grant him three hundred acres of land, where it is to be had, not hindering a plantation." This land was laid out "in the wilderness, on the East of Merrimack River, near the upper end of Nacooke Brook."

In October, 1668, Pratt, then nearly eighty, presented another petition to the General Court, in which he states that he "was the remainder of the forlorn hope of sixty men;" that he was now lame; and he requested aid "that might be for his subsistence the remaining time of his life." The Court refused to grant his petition. The Charlestown records, a few months later, show the following charitable record, January 25, 1668/9: "Ordered constable Jno. Hayman to supply Phineas Pratt with so much as his present low condition may require."

At this time Pratt was regarded with uncommon interest. Winslow's Relation, which had been in print over forty years, referred to him as one of Weston's men, who came to Plymouth "with his

1 Ib., Vol. iii., p. 145.

pack on his back," and "made a pitiful narration of their lamentable and weak estate and of the Indian carriages"[1]; Morton's Memorial, printed in 1669, stated that Pratt had "penned the particulars of his perilous journey and some other things relating to this tragedy" of Weston's Colony;[2] Hubbard, in 1667, states his service, and also that he was then living;[3] and a comparison of the "Declaration" now first printed, with Increase Mather's "Relation of the Troubles," &c., printed in 1677, shows, that the "Old Planter yet living in this country," who is referred to and whose relation is there given at length, was Phinehas Pratt.[4]

Pratt's will is dated January 8, 1677, in which he is styled "Joiner." He bequeaths a small estate, invoiced at £40. 16*s.* 0*d.*, to his wife Mary, and son Joseph. He died in Charlestown, April 19, 1680, where he was buried. A pious hand raised an ornamental tomb-stone over his remains, which is still in good preservation, in the Old Burying Ground. On the right hand of a common centre design is the figure of a spade and pickaxe crossed, and on the left hand a coffin and cross bones. The following is the inscription, which I copied, March 26, 1858.

FUGIT HORA.

HERE LIES Ye BODY OF PHINEHAS
PRATT AGd A BOUT 90 Yrs. DECd APRIL
Ye 19 1 6 80
& WAS ON OF Ye FIRST ENGLISH
INHABITANTS OF Ye MASSACHUSETS COLONY.

The manuscript of Pratt's "Declaration," presented in 1662 to the Massachusetts General Court, and now printed for the first

1 Young's Winslow, p. 332.
2 Morton Memorial, p. 90.
3 Hubbard, History, p. 78.
4 Mather's Relation, p. 17.

time, consists of three folio sheets, sewn together, one half of which appears to have been torn off after they were thus arranged. Hence a portion is lost. The MS. is torn at the edges, and portions of the writing are obliterated. It is printed as it is written, except as to punctuation, and where this required, capital letters. Pratt's Petition of 1668 is also printed for the first time. To these papers is added Increase Mather's version of Pratt's "Relation," printed in 1677. R. F., Jr.

A DECLIRATION OF THE AFAIRES OF THE EINGLISH PEOPLE [THAT FIRST] INHABITED NEW EINGLAND.

In the Time of Sperituall darkneſs, when y^e^ State Ecleiſaſti . . . . Roome Ruled & ouer Ruled moſt of the Nations of Vrope, it plea . . . . . to giue wiſdom to many, kings and people, in breaking y^t^ ſperituall yo . . . . ; yet, not wth ſtanding, there Aroſe great ſtrif Among ſuch people y^t^ ar knowne by the name of prodaſtonce, in many Caſes Concerning y^e^ worſhip of God; but y^e^ greateſt & ſtrongeſt number of men Comonly pvaled Againſt the ſmaller and leſor Number. At this time the honoured States of Holland gave moore Liberty in Caſes of Relidgon y^n^ could be injoyed in ſome other places. Upon wich diuers good Criſtians Remoued the . . . . dwellings Into y^e^ Low Cuntrys.

Y^n^ on Company y^t^ Dwelt in the Sitty of Laydon, being not well Able outwardly to ſubſiſt, tooke Counſell & Agred to Remoue into Amerika, into ſome port Northward of Verginia. Y^e^ Duch people ofored y^m^ diuers Condiſhons to ſuply y^m^ w^th^

things Neſaſary if thay would Liue vndor y^e^ Gouerment of thay^r^ State, but thay Refuſed it. This thay did y^t^ all men might know the Intier Loue thay bore to thay^r^ King & Cuntry; for in y^m^ ther was never found any lack of Lifill obedience. Thay ſent to thay^r^ ffreinds in Eingland to Let them Vnderſtand what thay intended to doe. Then diuers ffr . . . . . Diſburſed ſome monys for y^e^ fferthering of ſoe good a work.

It is ff . . . . . to be underſtood y^t^, in the yeare 1618, ther apeared a blaſing ſtar ouer Garmany y^t^ maed y^e^ wiſs men of Vrope aſtoniſhed thay^r^ . . . . .

Spedily after, near about y^t^ time, theſe people begun to propoes Remouall. Thay Agred y^t^ thay^r^ ſtrongeſt & Ableſt men ſhould goe . . . . . to provid for thay^r^ Wiffs & children. Y^n^ Coming into Eingland, they ſett fforward in to ſhips, but thay^r^ Leſer ſhip ſprung a leak & returned . . . . Eingland; y^e^ biger ſhip Ariued att Cape Codd, 1620 it being winter, then Caled new Eingland but formerly Caled Canidy. They ſent forth thay^r^ boat vpon diſcouery. Thay^r^ boat being Returned to they^r^ Shipp, thay Remoued into y^e^ bay of Plimoth & begun they^r^ planta . . . by the Riuer of Petuxet. Thay^r^ Shipp being returned & ſafly Arived in Eingland, thoſe Gentlemen & Marchents, y^t^ had vndertaken to ſuply y^m^ w^th^ things neſaſery, vnderſtanding y^t^ many of y^m^ weare ſick & ſome ded, maed haſt to ſend a ſhip w^th^ many things neſaſery; but ſom Indeſcret men, hoping to incoridg thay^r^ freinds to Come to y^m^, writ Letters Conſerning y^e^ great plenty of ffiſh fowle and deare, not conſidering y^t^ y^e^ wild Salvages weare many times hungrye, y^t^ have a better ſcill to catch ſuch things then Eing-

liſh men haue. The Adventvrers, willing to ſaf thay^r Monys, ſent them weekly provided of vicktualls, as Many moor after y^m did the lyke; & y^t was y^e great Cauſe of famine.

At the ſame time, Mr. Thomas Weſtorne, a Merchent of good credit in London, y^t was y^n thay^r treſhurer, y^t had diſberſt much of his Mony for y^e good of New Eingland, ſent forth a ſhip for y^e ſettleing a plantation in the Maſſachuſetts Bay, but wanting a pilote we Ariued att Damoralls Cove. The men y^t belong to y^e ſhip, ther fiſhing, had newly ſet up a may pole & weare very mery. We maed haſt to prepare a boat fit for coſting. Then ſaid Mr. Rodgers, Maſter of our ſhip, "heare ar Many ſhips & at Munhigin, but no man y^t does vndertake to be yo^r pilate; for they ſay y^t an Indian Caled Rumhigin vndertook to pilot a boat to Plimoth, but thay all loſt tha^r Lives." Then ſaid Mr. Gibbs, Maſt^rs Mate of our ſhip, "I will venter my Liue wth y^m." At this time of our diſcouery, we firſt Ariued att Smithe's Ilands, firſt ſoe Caled by Capt. Smith, att the Time of his diſcouery of New Eingland, ... fterwards Caled Ilands of Sholes; ffrom thence to Cape Ann . . . . ſo Caled by Capt Maſon; from thence to y^e Mathechuſits Bay.[1] Ther we continued 4 or 5 days.

Then we pſeaued, y^t on the ſouth part of the Bay, weare feweſt of the natives of the Cuntry Dwelling ther. We thought beſt to begine our plantation, but fearing A great Company of Salvages, we being but 10 men, thought it beſt to ſee if our friends weare Living at Plimoth. Then ſay-

1 They arrived in May, 1622. *Winslow's Relation in Young*, p. 293, gives the name of the ship — "a fishing ship called the Sparrow;" Bradford supplies the date "about the latter end of May." *Deane's Bradford*, p. 114.

ling Along the Coſt, not knowing the harber, thay ſhot of a peece of Ardinance, and at our coming Aſhore, thay entertaned vs wth 3 vally of ſhotts. They^{r} ſeckond ſhip was Reterned for Eingland before we Came to y^{m}. We aſked y^{m} wheare the Reſt of our freinds weare y^{t} came in the firſt ſhip. Thay ſaid y^{t} God had taken y^{m} Away by deth, & y^{t} before thay^{r} ſeckond ſhip came, thay weare ſoe deſtreſed with ſicknes y^{t} thay, feareing the ſalvages ſhould know it, had ſett up thay^{r} ſick men with thay^{r} muſcits vpon thay^{r} Reſts & thay^{r} backs Leaning Againſt trees. At this Time, on or two of them went wth vs in our veſill to y^{e} place of ffiſhing to bye vicktualls. 8 or 9 weeks after this, to of our ſhips[2] Arived att Plimoth — the leſer of our 3 ſhips continued in the Cuntry with vs. Then we maed haſt to ſettle our plantation in the Maſſachuſets bay — our Number being neare ſixty men. Att the ſame time ther was a great plag Among the ſalvagis, &, as y^{m} ſelfs told vs, half thay^{r} people died thereof. The Natius caled the place of our plantation Weſaguſcaſit. Neare vnto it is a towne of Later Time Caled Weymoth.

The Salvagis ſeemed to be good freinds with vs while they feared vs, but when they ſee famin prevall, they begun to inſult, as apeareth by the ſeaquell; for on of thay^{r} Penneſſes

2 These ships were the Charity, of one hundred tons, and the Swan, of thirty tons. "In the end of June, or beginning of July, came into our harbor two ships of master Weston's aforesaid; the one called the Charity, the other the Swan; having in them some fifty or sixty men, sent over at his own charge to plant for him." The Charity sailed with passengers for Virginia. *Winslow's Relation in Young*, p. 296. Bradford describes the generous manner with which Weston's men were treated at Plymouth, *Deane's Bradford*, p. 124, where, and in the notes, will be found ample materials relating to Weston's Plantation.

or Chef men, Caled Pexſouth, implyed himſelf to Learne to ſpeek Eingliſh, obſarving all things for his blody ends. He told me he Loued Eingliſh men very well, but he Loued me beſt of all. Then he ſaid, "you ſay ffrench men doe not loue you, but I will tell you what wee have don to y^{m}. Ther was a ſhip broken by a ſtorm. Thay ſaued moſt of they^{r} goods & hid it in the Ground. We maed y^{m} tell us wheare it was. Y^{n} we maed y^{m} our ſarvants. Thay weept much. When we parted them, we gaue y^{m} ſuch meat as our dogs eate. On of y^{m} had a Booke he would ofen Reed in. We Aſked him 'what his Booke ſaid.' He anſwered, 'It ſaith, ther will a people, lick French men, com into this Cuntry and driue you all a way,' & now we thincke you ar thay. We took Away thay^{r} Clothes. Thay liued but a little while. On of them Liued Longer than the Reſt, for he had a good maſter & gaue him a wiff. He is now ded, but hath a ſonn Alive. An other Ship Came into the bay wth much goods to Trucke, y^{n} I ſaid to the Sacham, I will tell you how you ſhall haue all for nothing. Bring all our Canows & all our Beauer & a great many men, but no bow nor Arow Clubs, nor Hachits, but knives vnder y^{e} ſcins y^{t} About our Lines. Throw vp much Beauer vpon thay^{r} Deck; ſell it very Cheep & when I giue the word, thruſt yo^{r} knives in the French mens Bellys. Thus we killed y^{m} all.[1] But Mounſear Ffinch, Maſter of thay^{r} ſhip, being wounded, Leped into y^{e} hold. We bidd him com vp, but he would not. Then we cutt thay^{r} Cable & y^{e}

1 "New English Canaan," by Thomas Morton, printed in 1632, states that this ship was "then riding at anchor by an island then called Peddock's Island;" and that there were five Frenchmen. Chap. iii.

ſhip went Aſhore & lay vpon her ſid & ſlept ther. Ffinch Came vp & we killed him. Then our Sachem devided thay^{r} goods & ffiered they^{r} Ship & it maed a very great fier." Som of our Company Aſked y^{m} "how long it was Agow ſinc thay firſt ſee ſhips? Thay ſaid thay could not tell, but thay had heard men ſay y^{e} firſt ſhip y^{t} thay ſee, ſeemed to be a floting Iland, as thay ſupoſed broken of from the maine Land, wrapt together wth the roats of Trees, with ſome trees upon it. Thay went to it with thay^{r} Canows, but ſeeing men & hearing guns, thay maed haſt to be gon.

But after this, when thay ſaw ffamin prevale, Peckworth ſaid, "why doe yo^{r} men & yo^{r} dogs dy?" I ſaid, "I had Corn for a Time of need. Y^{n} I filed a Cheſt, but not with Corne & ſpred Corn on. . . . . him Com opened the Couer and when I was ſhure he ſee it, I put dow . . . . . as if I would not haue him ſee it." Then he ſaid "No Indian Soe. . . . . You haue much Corne & Eingliſh men dye for want." Then thay h . . . . intent to make warr thay Remoued ſome of thay^{r} howſes to th . . . . a great ſwamp neare to the pale of our plantation. After this yer . . . . a morning I ſee a man goeing into on of thay^{r} howſes, weary with trafelling & Galded on his feet. Y^{n} I ſaid to Mr. Salſbery, our Chirurgeon, ſhurly thay^{r} Sacham hath implyed him for ſom intent to make war vpon vs. Then I took a Bagg wth gunpowder and putt it in my pockitt, wth the Top of the bagg hanging out, & went to y^{e} houſe whear the man was laid vpon a matt. The woman of the howſe took hold of the bagg, ſaying, what is this ſoe bigg? I ſaid it is good for Salvagis to eat, and ſtrock hur on the Arm as hard as I could.

Then ſhe ſaid, Matchet powder Eingliſh men, much Matchit. By and by Abordicis bring Mouch Mans, Mouch Sannups, & kill you all & all Eingliſh men att Weſſaguſcus & Patuckſet. The man y^t^ lay upon y^e^ mats, ſeeing this, was Angry and in a great Rage, and the woman ſeemed to be ſore afraid. Y^n^ I went out of the howſe, and ſaid to a young man y^t^ could beſt vnderſtand thay^r^ Langwig, goe Aſke y^e^ woman, but not in y^e^ man's hearing, why the man was Agry, & ſhee Afraid? Our interpreter, Coming to me, ſaid, "theſe are the words of the woman — y^e^ man will . . . Abordicis what I ſaid & he & all Indians will be angry with me. . . . . This Peexworth ſaid, "I love you," I ſaid "I loue you." I ſaid "I loue you as well as you Loue me." Then he ſaid, in broken Eingliſh, "me heare you can make the Lickneſs of men & of women, dogs & dears, in wood & ſtone. Can you make . . . . . ." I ſaid, "I can ſee a kniue in yo^r^ hand, w^th^ an Ill favored ffaſe upon the haft." Then he gave it into my hand to ſee his workmanſhip, & ſaid, "this kniue cannot ſee, it Can not heare, it Can not ſpek, but by & by it can eat. I haue Another knive at home w^th^ a faſe upon the haft as lick a man as this is lick a woman. Y^t^ knive Can not ſee, it Can not heare, it Can not ſpeke, but it can eat. It hath killed much, ffrench men, & by & by this knive & y^t^ knive ſhall mary[1] & you ſhall be thear . . . . knive at home he had kep for a moniment, from the time they had killed Mounſear Ffinch;" but as the word went out of his mouth, I had a good will to thruſt

1 Some of this conversation, in the same words, may be found in Winslow's "Good News from New England, &c.," printed in London in 1624. See reprint of this book in Young's Chronicle of the Pilgrims, p. 338.

it in his belly. He ſaid, "I ſee you ar much angry." I ſaid, "Guns ar Longer then knius."

Som tim after this thar Sacham Cam ſudingly upon us wth a great numbor of Armed men; but thar ſpys ſeeing us in a Redines, he & ſome of his Chif men, terned into on of thar howſes a quartor of An our. Then wee met them wthout the pale of our plantation & brought them in. Then ſaid I to a yong man yt could beſt ſpeke thayr Langwig, "Aſke Pexworth whi thay com thus Armed." He Anſwered, "our Sacham is angry wth you." I ſaid, "Tell him if he be Angry wth us, wee be Angry wth him." Yn ſaid thayr Sachem, "Eingliſh men, when you Com into ye Cuntry, we gave you gifts and you gaue vs gifts; we bought and ſold wth you and we weare freinds; and now tell me if I or any of my men have don you Rong." We anſwered, "Firſt tell us if we have don you Any Rong." He anſwered, "Some of you ſteele our Corne & I have ſent you word times wthout number & yet our Corne is ſtole. I come to ſee what you will doe." We anſwered, "It is on man wich hath don it. Yor men have ſeen vs whip him divers times, beſids other manor of puniſhments, & now heare he is Bound. We give him vnto you to doe wth him what you pleaſe." He anſwered, "yt is not juſt dealeing. If my men wrong my nabur ſacham, or his men, he ſends me word & I beat or kill my men, acording to the ofenc. If his men wrong me or my men, I ſend him word & he beats or kills his men Acording to the ofence. All Sachams do Juſtis by thayr own men. If not we ſay they ar all Agreed & then we ffite, & now I ſay you all ſteele my Corne."

At this Time ſom of them, ſeeing ſom of our men upon our forte, begun to ſtart, ſaying, "Machit Peſconk," that is nawty Guns. Then Looking Round about them went a way in a great Rage. Att this Time we ſtrenthened our wach untell we had no ffood left. In thes times the Salvagis ofentime did Crep upon the ſnow, ſtarting behind Bouſhes & trees to ſee whether we kepe wach or not . . . . times I haveing Rounded our plantation untell I had no longer . . . . . nth; y^{n} in the night, goeing into our Corte of Gard, I ſee on man ded before me & Another at my writ hand & An other att my left for want of food. O all y^{e} people in New Eingland y^{t} ſhall heare of theſe times of our week beginning, Conſider what was the ſtrenth of the Arm of fleſh or the witt of man; therfor in the times of yo^{r} greateſt diſtres put yo^{r} truſt in God.

The ofendor being bound, we lett him louſe, becauſe we had no food to give him, Charging him to gather Ground Nutts, Clams, & Muſells, as other men did, & ſteel no more. On or two days after this, the ſalvagis brot him, leading him by the armes, ſaying "Heare is the Corne. Com ſee the plaſe wheare he ſtole it." Then we kep him bound ſom few days. After this, to of our Company ſaid "we have bin at the Sachem's howſe & thay have near finiſhed thay^{r} laſt Canoe y^{t} thay may incounter wth our ſhip. Thay^{r} greateſt Care is how to ſend thay^{r} Army's to Plimoth becauſe of the ſnow. Y^{n} we prepared to meet y^{m} there. On of our Company ſaid "thay have killed on of our hogs." An other ſaid, "on of y^{m} ſtriked (?) at me wth his knife;" & others ſay "they threw dust in our faſes." Then ſaid Pexworth to me,

"give me powder & Gunns & I will give you much corne." I ſaid, "by & by men bring ſhips & vittls." But when we underſtod y^t^ their plot was to kill all Eingliſh people in on day when the ſnow was gon, I would have ſent a man to Plimoth, but noṅ weare willing to goe. Then I ſaid if Plimoth men know not of this Trecherous plot, they & we are all ded men; Therefore if God willing, to morrow I will goe. Y^t^ night a yong man, wanting witt, towld Pexworth yearly in the Morning. Pexworth came to me & ſaid in Eingliſh, "Me heare you goe to Patuxit; you will looſe yo^r^ ſelf; y^e^ bears and the wolfs will eate you; but becauſe I Love you I will ſend my boy Nahamit with you; & I will give you vicktualls to eat by y^e^ way & to be mery w^th^ yo^r^ freinds when you Com there." I ſaid; "Who towld you ſoe great a Lye y^t^ I may kill him." He ſaid, "it is noe lye, you ſhall not know." Then he went whom to his howſe. Then Came 5 men Armed. We ſaid, "Why Com you thus Armed." They ſaid, "we are ffreinds; you cary Guns wheare we dwell & we cary bowe & Arows wheare you dwell." Thes atended me 7 or 8 days & nights. Then thay ſupoſeing it was a lye, wheare Carlis of thay^r^ wach near two ours on the morning. Y^n^ ſaid I to our Company, "now is the Time to Run to Plimoth. Is ther any Compas to be found." Thay said, "non but y^m^ y^t^ belong to y^e^ ſhip." I ſaid, "thay are to Bigg. I have born no armes of Defence this 7 or 8 days. Now if I take my armes thay will miſtrust me. Then thay ſaid "y^e^ ſalvages will pſhue after you & kill you & we ſhall never ſee you Agayne." Thus w^th^ other words of great Lamentation, we parted. Then I took a how & went to y^e^ Long

Swamp neare by thay^r howſes & diged on the ege thereof as if I had bin looking for ground nutts, but ſeeing no man I went in & Run through it. Then Looking Round a bout me, I Run Southward tell 3 of y^e Clock, but the ſnow being in many places, I was the more diſtreſed becaus of my ffoot ſteps. The ſonn being beclouded, I wandered, not knowing my way; but att the Goeing down of the ſonn, it apeared Red; then hearing a great howling of wolfs, I came to a River; the water being depe & cold & many Rocks, I paſed through w^th much adoe. Then was I in great diſtres — ffant for want of ffood, weary with Running, ffearing to make a ffier becauſe of y^m y^t pſhued me. Then I came to a depe dell or hole, ther being much wood falen into it. Then I ſaid in my thoughts, this is God's providence that heare I may make a fier. Then haveing maed a fier, the ſtars began to a pear and I ſaw Urſa Magor & the . . . . pole yet fearing . . . . beclouded. The day following I began to trafell . . . . . but being unable, I went back to the fier the day ffall . . . . ſonn ſhined & about three of the clock I came to that part . . . . Plimoth bay wher ther is a Town of Later Time . . . . Duxbery. Then paſſing by the water on my left hand . . . cam to a brock & ther was a path. Haveing but a ſhort Time to Conſider . . . . ffearing to goe beyond the plantation, I kept Running in the path; then paſſing through James Ryuer I ſaid in my thoughts, now am I as a deare Chaſed . . . . the wolfs. If I periſh, what will be the Condiſh . . . . of diſtreſed Eingliſh men. Then finding a peec of a . . . . I took it up & Caried it in my hand. Then finding a . . of a Jurkin, I Caried them under my arme. Then

ſaid I in my . . . . God hath giuen me theſe two tookens for my Comfort; y^t^ now he will giue me my live for a pray. Then Running down a hill J . . . an Eingliſh man Coming in the path before me. Then I ſat down on a tree & Riſing up to ſalute him ſaid, "Mr. Hamdin,[1] I am Glad to ſee you aliue." He ſaid "I am Glad & full of wonder to ſee you aliue: lett us ſitt downe, I ſee you are weary." I ſaid, "Let . . . . . eate ſom parched corne." Then he ſaid "I know the Caus . . . . Come . . . Maſaſoit hath ſent word to the Gouernor to let him ( ) y^t^ Aberdikees & his Confederates have contriued a plot hopeing . . . . . all Eingliſh people in on day heare as men hard by (ma)king Canoe . . . ſtay & we will goe w^th^ you. Y^e^ next day a yong . . . . . named Hugh Stacye went forth to fell a tree & ſee two . . . . . riſing from the Ground. They ſaid Aberdikees had ſent . . . . . y^e^ Gouernor y^t^ he might ſend men to trucke much Beauer, but thay would not goe, but ſaid, "Was not ther An Eingliſh . . . . . Come from Weſaguſcus." He Anſwered "he came" . . . Thay ſaid he was thay^r^ ffriend, and ſaid come and ſee who . . . . . But they Terned another way. He ſaid, "You come to let vs . . . " Providence to vs was great in thoſe times as apeareth . . . . . after the time of the Ariuall of the firſt ſhip at pl . . . . ſornamed Maſaſoit Came to Plimoth & thay^r^ maed a co . . . peace, for an Indian Caled Tiſquantom Came to y^m^ & ſpek Eingliſh . . Thay

1 Winslow's "Good News" says this was "John Hamden, a gentleman of London who then wintered with us." *Young's Winslow*, p. 314. Young conjectures that he must have come "in the Charity, which brought Weston's colony." *Note, ibid.*, p. 314. He accompanied Edward Winslow, in 1623, on his visit to Massasoit.

Aſked him, how he learned to ſpeeke Eingliſh? He ſaid y^t^ An Eingliſhman Caled Capt Hunt Came into the Harbor pretending to trade for beaver & ſtoole 24 men & thay^r^ beaur & Caried & Sould them in Spaine. & from thence w^th^ much adoe he went into Eingland & ffrom Eingland w^th^ much adoe he gott into h(is) owne Cuntry. This man towld Maſaſoit what wonders he had ſeen in Eingland & y^t^ if he Could make Eingliſh his ffreinds then . . . . . Enemies y^t^ weare to ſtrong for him would be Conſtrained to bowe to him; but being prevented by ſome y^t^ Came in y^e^ firſt ſhip y^t^ . . . . . Recorded y^t^ wich Conſerned them I leave it.

Two or 3 days after my Coming to Plimoth, 10 or 11 men[1] went in a boat to o^r^ plantation, but I being fanted was not able to goe w^th^ y^m^. They firſt gave warning to the maſter of the ſhip[2] & then Contrived how to make ſure of the Liues of to of thay^r^ Cheef men, Wittiwomitt, of whom they boſted no Gun would kill, and Pexworth, a ſuttle man. Theſe being ſlaine they fell opon others wheare thay could find y^m^. Then Abordikees, hearing y^t^ ſome of his men weare killed, Came to try his manwhod, but as thay weare ſtarting behind buſhes & trees, on of y^m^ was ſhott in the Arme. At this time An Indian caled Hobermack, y^t^ formerly had fleed for his liue from his Sacham to Plimoth, aproued himſelf a valient man in fiting & pſhuing after them. Two of our men were killed y^t^ thay took in thay^r^ howſes att An Advantage . . . . this

1 This was a party under Captain Standish, who left Plymouth on the 25th of March, 1623. *Winslow, in Young*, p. 334. Winslow gives a detailed account of the deaths of Wituwamusset and Pecksuot.

2 The Swan, which remained at Wessaguscus, or Wessagusset.

Time pl . . . . . weare inſtruments in the . . . nds of God for . . . . . thay^{r} own liues and ours. Thay tooke the head of . . . . . & ſett it on thay^{r} ffort att Plimoth att . . . . . 9 (?) of our men weare ded wth ffamine and on died in the ſhip before thay Came to the place whear at that Time of yeare ſhips Came to ffiſh — it being in March. At this Time ſhips began to ffiſh at y^{e} Iſlands of Sholes and I haveing Recovered a Little of my . . . . . th went to my Company near about this Time . . . . . the firſt plantation att Paſcataqua the . . . . thereof was Mr. Dauid Tomſon at the time of my arivall (?) att Paſcataqua. To of Abordikees men Came thither & ſeeing me ſaid, "when we killed yo^{r} men thay cried and maed Il fauored ffaſes." I said, "when we killed yo^{r} men, we did not Torment them to make ourſelf (?) mery." Then we went with our ſhip into the bay & took from them two Shalops Loading of Corne & of thay^{r} men priſoners ther as a Towne of Later Time Caled Dorcheſter. The third and laſt time was in the bay of Agawam. At this Time they took for thay^{r} caſell a thick ſwamp. At this time on of our ableſt men was ſhot in the ſholder. Wether Any of them wear killed or wounded we could not tell. Ther is a Town of Later time, neare vnto y^{t} place Caled Ipſwich. Thus . . . . . plantation being deſerted, Capt. Robert Gore cam . . . . . the Cuntry wth ſix gentlemen Atending him & diuers men to doe his Labor & other men wth thay^{r} familys. Thay took poſſeſſion of our plantation, but thay^{r} ſhip ſuply from Eingland Came to late. Thus was ffamine thay^{r} final oforthrow. Moſt of y^{m} y^{t} liued Reterned for Eingland. The oforſeers of the third plantation in the bay was Capt. Wool-

iſton & Mr. Roſdell. Thes ſeeing the Ruing of the former plantation, ſaid, we will not pich our Tents heare, leaſt we ſhould doe as thay have Done. Notwithſtanding theſe Gentlemen wear wiſs men, thay ſeemed to blame the oforſeeors of the formur Companies not Conſidering y^t^ God plants & pull vp Bilds & pulls down & terns the wiſdom of wiſs men into fooliſhneſs. Theſe Caled y^e^ name of thay^r^ place Mountwooliſton. They Continued neare a yeare as others had don before y^m^; but famin was thay^r^ finall aforthrow. Neare vnto y^t^ place is a Town of Lator Time Caled Brantry. Not long after the oferthrow of the firſt plantation in the bay, Capt. Louit Cam to y^er^ Cuntry. At the Time of his being at Paſcataway a Sacham or Sagamor Gaue two of his men, on to Capt. Louit & An other to Mr. Tomſon, but on y^t^ was ther ſaid, "How can you truſt theſe Salvagis. Cale the nam of on Watt Tylor, & y^e^ other Jack Straw, after y^e^ names of the two greateſt Rebills y^t^ ever weare in Eingland." Watt Tylor ſaid "when he was a boy Capt. Dormer found him upon an Iſland in great diſtreſs."

The next document printed by Mr. Frothingham in the "Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society," already cited, is Phinehas Pratt's Petition to the General Court of Massachusetts Bay, presented in October, 1668, which has already been given on pages 47, 48, *supra*, and need not be repeated here. Of this, Mr. Frothingham says: — "This Petition is printed from a manuscript of the date of 1668, as is evident from the autograph attestation of Torrey and Pyncheon, though it is so unlike the 'Declaration,' both in composition and chirography, as to make it certain that it is not in the handwriting of Pratt.

THE following Relation is reprinted from pp. 17–20, of "A Relation Of the Troubles which have happened in New-England, By reason of the Indians there. From the year 1614 to the year 1675. By Increase Mather." It is from the Historical Society's copy of this rare work. R. F., JR.

PHINEHAS PRATT'S RELATION BY INCREASE MATHER.

THERE is an old *Planter* yet living in this countrey, being one of thoſe that were employed by Mr. *Weſton*, who alſo hath given ſome account of theſe matters.

He doth relate, and affirm, that at his firſt coming into this countrey, the Engliſh were in a very diſtreſſed condition, by reaſon of famine, and ſickneſs which was amongſt them, whereof many were already dead; and that they buried them in the night, that the Indians might not perceive how low they were brought.

This *Relator* doth moreover declare, that an Indian *Panies*, who ſecretly purpoſed bloody deſtruction againſt the Engliſh, and made it his deſign to learn the Engliſh tongue, to the end he might more readily accompliſh his helliſh devices, told him, that there had been a French veſſel caſt away upon theſe coaſts, only they ſaved their lives and their goods, and that the Indians took their goods from them, and made the *Frenchmen* their ſervants, and that they wept very much, when the Indians parted them from one another; that they made them eat ſuch meat as they gave their dogs. Only one of them having a good Maſter, he provided a Wife for him, by whom he had a Son, and lived longer than the

reſt of the French men did; and that one of them was wont to read much in a Book (ſome ſay it was the New-Teſtament) and that the Indians enquiring of him what his Book ſaid, he told them it did intimate, that there was a people like French men that would come into the Country, and drive out the Indians, and that they were now afraid that the Engliſh were the people of whoſe coming the French man had foretold them. And that another ſhip from *France* came into the *Maſſachuſets Bay* with Goods to Truck, and that Indian *Panies* propounded to the Sachim, that if he would hearken to him, they would obtain all the French mens Goods for nothing, namely, by coming a multitude of them aboard the veſſel, with great ſtore of Beaver, making as if they would Truck, & that they ſhould come without Bows and arrows, only ſhould have knives hid in the flappets which the Indians wear about their loins, and when he ſhould give the *watch-word*, they ſhould run their knives into the French mens bellyes, which was accordingly executed by the Indians, and all the French men killed, only Mounſier *Finch* the Maſter of the veſſel being wounded, ran down into the Hold, whereupon they promiſed him that if he would come up, they would not kill him, notwithſtanding which, they brake their word, and murdered him alſo, and at laſt ſet the ſhip on Fire.

Some enquiring of him how long it was ſince the Indians firſt ſaw a ſhip, he replyed that he could not tel, but ſome old Indians reported, that the firſt ſhip ſeemed to them to be a Floating Iſland, wrapped together with the roots of trees, and broken off from the Land, which with their *Canoos* they went to ſee, but when they found men there and heard gunns,

they hafted to the ſhore again not a little amazed. (Some write that they ſhot arrows at the firſt ſhip they ſaw thinking to kill it.)

This *Relator* doth alſo affirm, that after jealouſies began between the Engliſh of Mr. *Wefton's* plantation and the Indians, they built diverſe of their *wigwams* at the end of a great Swamp, near to the Engliſh, that they might the more ſuddenly and effectually doe what was ſecretly contrived in their hearts: and an Indian Squaw ſaid to them that ere long *Aberkieft* would bring many Indians that would kill all the Engliſh there and at *Patuxet.* After which the *Sachim* with a company of his men came armed towards them, and bringing them within the Pale of the Engliſh Plantation, he made a ſpeech to the Engliſh with great gravity ſaying, "When you firſt came into this land, I was your friend, we gave gifts to one another. I let you have land as much as we agreed for, and now I would know of you if I or my men have done you any wrong." Unto whom the Engliſh replyed, that they deſired, that he would firſt declare whether they had injured him.

The Sachim roundly rejoyned, that either ſome or all of them had been abuſive to him; for they had ſtolen away his corn, and though he had given them notice of it times without number, yet there was no ſatiſfaction nor reformation attained.

Hereupon, the Engliſh took the principal *Thief* and bound him and delivered him to the *Sachim*, withall declaring, that he might do with him what he pleaſed. Nay (ſaid he) Sachims do juſtice themſelves upon their own men, and let

their neighbours do juſtice upon theirs, otherwiſe we conclude that they are all agreed, and then fight.

Now the Indians ſome of them began to tremble, and beholding the Guns which were mounted on the Engliſh Fort, they ſaid one to another (in their Language) that little guns would ſhoot through houſes, and great guns would break down trees, and make them fall and kill Indians round about. So did they depart at that time diſſatiſfied and enraged.

The Engliſh now perceiving that the Indians were fully purpoſed to be revenged on them, they reſolved to fight it out to the laſt man.

As they were marching out of the Fort, ſeven or eight men ſtood ſtil, ſaying, this is the ſecond time that the Salvages had demanded the life of him that had wronged them, and therefore they would have him firſt put to death, and if that would not ſatiſfy, then to fight it out to the laſt, wherefore he was put to death in the ſight of the Heathen; after which the Engliſh marched out towards them, but they diſperſed themſelves into the woods.

This *Relator* endeavoured to give notice to them in *Plymouth*, how that the Indians had contrived their ruin, but he miſſed his way between *Weymouth* and *Plymouth*; and it was wel he did ſo; for by that means, he eſcaped the ſavage hands of thoſe Indians, who immediately purſued him, with a murderous intention. Ere he could reach *Plymouth*, they were informed by *Maſſafoit* (as hath been declared) concerning what was plotted amongſt the Indians.

Finally there were (as this *Relator* teſtifieth) three ſeveral ſkirmiſhes with the Indians. One at *Weſeguſquaſet*, before

mentioned; another at a place where the town of *Dorchefter* is ſince planted; and laſtly at the Bay of *Agawam* or *Ipſwich*, in all which engagements the Indians were notably beaten, and the Engliſh received no conſiderable damage, ſo that the Sachims entreated for peace, nor were the Engliſh, (provided it might be upon terms ſafe and honourable) averſe thereunto, *Pacem te poſcimus omnes.*

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

AMONG the Genealogical papers left by Mr. Eleazer F. Pratt, was the following document, giving some account of the history of the English ancestry of the Pratts in America, and notes on another branch, which may or may not have been connected with the "Old Planter" Phinehas, which was printed many years ago for private circulation, by the Rev. Stillman Pratt, of Middleboro', Mass., and with which it has been thought proper to conclude this volume.

The Pratt name may be traced back at least four hundred years in European History. Anthony Du Prat, who became Chancellor of France and Prime Minister of Francis I, was born 1465. He was sent as a legate to the Pope of Rome, and was distinguished for his loyalty to the crown, and love to his sovereign.

Burke, in his General Heraldic Dictionary, says: —

"The Pratts have been of consideration in different parts of England and Ireland from a very remote period; some of them were of Knightly degree, and those of Berkshire were Baronets. The family of which we now treat were settled at Careswell Priory, County of Devon, about the middle of the reign of Elizabeth. Richard Pratt, during the civil war, by the difficulties in which

those disasters involved him, was obliged to dispose of the paternal inheritance. Richard Pratt was grandfather of Lord Chief Justice Sir John Pratt, who represented the borough of Midhurst in Parliament from 1700 until his elevation to the Chiefship of the King's Bench in 1714; he married Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. Henry Gregory, by whom he had two sons and four daughters. He died in 1724, and was succeeded by his eldest son, John Pratt of the wilderness, Kent County, who married for his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Geoffrey Jeffreys, of Brecknock Priory, by whom he had a daughter and son, John of Bayham Abbey, who died in 1797, bequeathing his estates to the present Marquis of Camden. Mr. Pratt married, secondly, Dorothy, daughter of Robert Tracy, of Cascomb, Gloucester County."

Rose's Biographical Dictionary says: —

"Charles Pratt, Earl of Camden, third son of Chief Justice John Pratt, was born 1714, and educated at Eton and Cambridge. In 1738 he was called to the bar. His superior merits were not, however, known, till called forth by his noble defence of Henley and Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham. In 1762 he was made Chief Justice of C. C. P. Here he became deservedly popular, and received high distinctions and rare privileges, such as the freedom of London and Dublin. In 1765 he was raised to a peerage with the title of Lord Camden of Camden Place. His opinion on the Middlesex election was so opposite to the views of the Ministry, that he was stripped of his honors. In reference to the causes which led on the war of the American Revolution, he reprobated the measures of Lord North, and was consequently removed from the wool-sack 1770. In 1782 he was appointed President of the Council, and continued in office till his death, in 1794. He had a high reputation for independence, legal knowledge, and impartiality. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Nicholas Jeffreys, by whom he had

John Jeffreys Pratt, F. S. A., Earl of Camden, &c., present Marquis, (1837)."

It is possible that the Earl of Camden's opposition to the oppressive measures of Lord North, arose not only from a sense of their injustice, but it may have been increased by the fact that the Pratts who came early to this country, and were deeply affected by events of the times, were his kindred, branches of the same stock, in whose welfare he took a personal interest.

There has always been a tradition that the Pratts came to America from the South of England. The Counties of Devon, Kent, and Berkshire, where the above named families resided, were all in this locality.

There are several distinct Pratt families in New England, five of whose genealogies at least, may be definitely traced.

Phineas Pratt came from England in the schooner Sparrow, joined the Weymouth Colony, but subsequently retired to Plymouth, where he owned property, married Mary Cuthbertson in 1630, and lived there till 1646. In 1648 he purchased a place in Charlestown, where he died in 1680, aged 90. His descendants are numerous and may be found in Cohasset, Middleboro', Taunton, Boston, and many other places. The most distinguished member of this family was Hon. Benjamin Pratt, Chief Justice of the State of New York.

Joshua Pratt, supposed to be a brother of Phineas, came from England to Plymouth in the ship Ann, a few years after the Mayflower. He was one of the surveyors who laid off the village of Plymouth into lots, receiving as compensation for his services a peck of corn per day. His descendants may be found in the Old Colony, Sudbury, Shutesbury, and other places. This family is remarkable for its longevity. Ephraim Pratt of Shutesbury, lived, according to the authority of Dr. Dwight, to the advanced age of 116.

William Pratt was among the first settlers of Hartford, Ct., living there as early as 1639. On the 157th page, vol. 1 of the Records of that town, is a description of different lots of land belonging to him. He removed to Saybrook probably between the years 1644 and 1648. William Pratt was made Lieutenant of the Train-band in Saybrook in 1661, and became a prominent man in that town. His descendants reside in Saybrook and vicinity. Their genealogy has been thoroughty traced and is ready for publication.

Edward Pratt of London, Eng., purchased of Wampas, sachem of Hassinamisco, in 1679, the tract of land now included in the town of Sutton. He subsequently removed to this country. His descendants are found in Sherburne, Mass., and vicinity.

The family whose genealogy we propose first to record, are the descendants of JOHN PRATT,[1] of Dorchester, on whom the rights of freeman were conferred May 14th, 1634. His descendants reside in Medfield, Reading Woodend, Temple, N. H., Buffalo, N. Y., and Prattsville, Ala. Hon. Daniel Pratt, of the latter place, is the most distinguished member of the family. John Pratt[1] owned in Dorchester a house and barn, orchard and home lot. He joined the first church of that place, Jan. 27, 1642, and Goody Pratt, supposed to be his wife, April 4, 1643. Mr. Ebenezer Clapp, who has written a history of the town, supposes that John Pratt[1] married Mary, daughter of John Whitman. They had three children, a son John,[2] who lived in Medfield, a son Timothy,[2] who was probably younger, and resided in Boston, and a daughter Elizabeth, who was baptized in 1643. John Pratt[1] died in 1647, and his widow married William Turner of Dorchester. Elizabeth, the daughter, became, it is believed, the third wife of Roger Billings.

The original proprietors of the old Pratt estate sold to Jacob Hewins, retaining the privilege of occupying the premises six years, if they lived so long. Hence the following:

QUIT CLAIM DEED, FOUND IN THE SUFFOLK RECORDS.

"Know all men by these presents, that we, John Pratt of Medfield, and Timothy Pratt of Boston, do, for certain causes moving us thereto, promise and engage for ourselves and our heirs and assignees, that neither we ourselves, nor they, nor any one by, for, or under us shall from henceforth lay any claim, or any wise molest or trouble Jacob Hewins of Dorchester, or his heirs, from the peaceable enjoyment of a house, orchard, barn and Home lot, in Dorchester, that was our Father John Pratt's in the time of his life, but do acknowledge the aforesaid house, barn, orchard and home lot, to be the aforesaid Jacob Hewins' and his heirs, to have and to hold forever; and for confirmation hereof we have set our hands and seals, this 3d day of Feb. 1672."

Before proceeding with the record of events pertaining to the John Pratt family, it will be necessary, in order to a full understanding of the case, to introduce to the acquaintance of the reader another individual. The reasons for so doing will be seen in the sequel.

The settlement of the town of Reading, Mass., was commenced by emigrants from Lynn in 1639, and was then called Lynn Village. The land was purchased of the Indians, in 1640, and the deed signed by Sagamore George, his sister Abigail, and Quanapowitt. Among the first thirty-five settlers was one Edward Taylor who became a large land holder there. He appears to have been a man of wealth.

In the Middlesex Registry of Deeds Office is the following curious document:

"Received by me, Timothy Pratt, of Boston, Tailor, attorney, and by order of Edward Taylor, and Elizabeth, his wife, relict of John Bridge, deceased, within named, of Matthew Bridge, administrator of the estate of said John Bridge, five pounds in leather by Dea. Hestings of Cambridge

and is in full satisfaction for the whole of the payment due by virtue of the marriage covenant within expressed. I say received this 23d December, 1685. By me, TIMOTHY PRATT."

Edward Taylor, it appears by this, married the widow of John Bridge, who lived in Roxbury, an inventory of whose estate, as found in the Suffolk Probate Office, Aug., 1674, amounted to £511, 11*s.*, 9*d.*

Elizabeth Bridge was widow of Martin Sanders of Braintree.

In Feb. 23, 1690, Timothy Pratt, of Boston, had set off to him on execution £62 worth of land belonging to the estate of Edward Taylor, of Reading, lying on Saw Mill River.

June 17, 1690, Edward Taylor made his Will in which he says:

"For divers reasons now moving me, especially for and in consideration of a bond and obligation under hand and seal for maintaining and providing for all my necessaries during my natural life, received of John Pratt, Sen., of Medfield, I have sold and conveyed unto said John Pratt, my home lot, 30 acres, my out lands, meadow lands, pasture lands, swamp lands, and all my buildings upon any of said lands, Dwelling houses, barns, and Store houses, whatsoever, situated in Reading, also all my stock, horses, sheep and swine, and all my goods."

Signed in presence of John Brown and Hananiah Parker.

Jan. 5, 1692–3, John Pratt,[2] of Medfield, assigned and made over to his son John Pratt,[3] all his interest in this Will. About this time John Pratt[3] came to Reading and took possession of this property. From the Will of Timothy Pratt,[2] of Boston, it is certain that John Pratt[3] was in Reading in 1694. It is for substance as follows:

"Timothy Pratt of Boston, Aug. 16th, 1694, do make and ordain this to be my last Will and Testament. I give and bequeath to my granddaughter Deborah, daughter of my son Timothy Pratt, late of Charlestown, the sum of £10 when she shall arrive at the age of 18, and I also give unto

said grand-daughter £20, to be paid out of the produce of a certain piece of meadow, containing about ten acres, lying in the town of Reading, in the county of Middlesex, now in the tenure of my kinsman Edward Taylor of Reading, and in order to the payment of said legacy last mentioned, my will is that my executrix dispose of said piece of meadow after the decease of my kinsman, Edward Taylor, and pay the said amount within twelve months after said Taylor's decease. I give and bequeath unto my kinsman John Pratt of Reading, the sum of 40 shillings to be allowed him out of £9 10s., which is the last payment which will become due to me from him in April, 1696. Also I give unto my said kinsman John Pratt my silk sash which my son Josiah sent me from Cadiz. I give unto my daughter-in-law Grace Osborne, formerly wife of my son Timothy, £5. I give unto my said daughter's mother Shippen, the sum of 40 shillings as a token of my love to her. I give unto my dear wife Mary Pratt all the house and land in Boston I had with her at marriage, and the residue of my property, both real and personal.

"Declared to be the last Will and Testament of Timothy Pratt, in our presence, John Goffe, Obadiah Wakefield, Joseph Pratt."

April 2, 1683, Grace Pratt of Charlestown, widow of Timothy Pratt,[3] late of that town, exhibited an inventory of his estate, amounting to £57 11*s.* 6*d.* The real estate consisted of a lot of land with cellar thereon and the frame of a house.

The following Will of John Pratt,[2] of Medfield, is recorded in Suffolk Probate Office, Vol. 16, p. 328. From the inventory following the Will, he appears to have owned 35 acres of land aside from the home lot on which the building stood:

In the name and fear of God Amen. In the year of our Lord 1707, I, John Pratt of Medfield, being aged about 77 years, and at present under the afflicting hand of God, yet retaining my memory and understanding, and being mindful of my change and of my duty to set my house in order, by way of preparation thereunto — I humbly commit my immortal soul

through Christ into the hands of Almighty God, and my body, after my decease, to a decent buryal in the dust. And for that portion of worldly goods which God has given me, I do will and bequeath it as follows: My debts and just dues being first paid, I will and bequeath unto my loving wife Rebecca all that parcel of land that I had of her father Colburn, lying in the bounds of Dedham, to be wholly at her disposal forever, and also one third of all my estate, both real and personal, during her natural life, and when she dies to be equally divided among my own children, hereafter named. I will and bequeath unto Henry Smith, who married one of my daughters, £10, and unto Timothy Clark, who also married one of my daughters, 2 shillings. And my will is that all the remainder of my estate, both real and personal, be equally divided among my children, John, Mary, Priscilla, Hannah and Sarah. I also appoint my son John Pratt, and son-in-law Samuel Wright, to be executors to this my last Will and Testament, making void all other Wills made by me at any time, and do declare this to be my last Will and Testament, after my decease to be in full force and virtue.

As witness my hand and seal this 30th day of April, 1707.

JOHN PRATT
his X mark and seal.

Published and signed in the presence of us:
Eleazer Wheelock, Samuel Ellice, Jeremiah Plimpton.

An inventory of the estate of John Pratt,[2] of late deceased, as it was made Aug. 29, 1707:

	£	s.	d.
Apparel, books and money	12	13	7
Bed, bedding &c.	7	00	0
Table Linen and small linen	1	8	0
Pewter and Brass Ware	1	17	0
Iron, earthen, &c.	1	17	0
Chairs, Tables, &c.	4	5	0
Grain, Provision, flax and wool	3	5	0
Scales, weights, razor, &c.	1	9	0
Farming tools	4	5	3
Cattle, mare, sheep and swine	24	17	6

	£	s.	d.
Building and home lot on both sides of the way . . .	40	00	0
Three acres of meadow land in No. Meadow . . .	15	00	0
To four acres of meadow do. do.	12	00	0
Eleven acres of meadow land, lying on both sides of Mill Brook	17	10	0
Seventeen acres wood land on North side of said brook .	17	00	0
	£158	7	4*

When John Pratt[8] came to Reading he took up his abode on the green declivities of the eastern shore of what was later known as South Reading Pond, a beautiful sheet of pure water, the silvery sheen of whose flashing waves still dances as of yore in the glittering sunlight. [Now Lake Quanapowitt, Wakefield.]

The old mansion, as we remember it, was a brown two-story house, surrounded with rich fields of grass and an expanse of waters three miles in circumference on the west. Here, with his wife Sarah, he reared a family of seven children, and resided more than half a century.

John Pratt[8] appears to have been a thoughtful, intelligent and religious man, of whom his numerous descendants may well be proud. His characteristics are clearly divulged in his Will, which reads as follows: —

In the Name of God Amen. On the 13th day of Nov., 1744, I, John Pratt, of Reading, in the County of Middlesex and Province of Mass., yeoman, being sick and weak in body, but of a sound mind, thank God therefor, calling to mind my own mortality, do make this my last Will and Testament.

Principally and first, I commend my soul to God that gave it, and my body to the dust, not doubting that at the last day I shall receive it again by the Almighty power of God who quickeneth all things.

* This amount is £6 less than the actual total of the items, probably from some error in copying. — Ed.

As to my worldly estate that God in his providence hath blessed me withal, I dispose of it in the following manner:

I give and bequeath unto my dear and loving wife, Sarah Pratt, £15 a year during her natural life, to be paid in bills of old tenor. Also, my will is that she have one of the lower rooms in my house and which chamber she shall choose, and liberty in the cellar for cider and other things, also liberty to the well and room in the yard for wood. Also, I give unto my wife one cow and also my mare. I also give her one-half of all my indoor moveables, and also my will is that my executor provide and bring into my dwelling house for my wife 16 bushels of Indian corn and 8 bushels of rye meal, 60 pounds of good pork and 60 pounds of good beef, and also 4 bushels of malt and 2 barrels of cider and one bushel of good turnips and half a bushel of good beans, yearly, during her natural life, as also 10 cords of firewood cut fit for the fire and stored handy to the house, and also my executor shall keep her cow winter and summer and carry her to meeting and elsewhere as she may have occasion to go, and also my will is that my wife have apples summer and winter, and liberty to keep a pig if she be so minded.

I hereby give unto the children of my son Samuel, deceased, one half part of my Pine swamp lot, viz., the north part, and my will is that my daughter in law, Joanna Pratt, shall have liberty to cut wood in said lot for her own fire so long as she shall be widow of my son Samuel, and further I give unto the children of my son Samuel £100 old tenor to be paid £12 10s. annually after the death of my wife.

I give unto my son John Pratt of Medfield, Suffolk Co., all my housing and land in Reading and Lynn that I shall die seized of, except the lot given to the children of my son Samuel. I give unto my son John all my cattle, sheep and hogs, provided he doth fulfil this my last Will, and pay such sums as I have ordained, or shall ordain in my Will, of which I appoint him my sole Executor.

I also give unto my son John my husbandry tools, out door movables, and all debts due me from any person whatsoever.

I give unto my son Edward £100 to be paid £12 10s. annually after the death of my wife. I also give unto him my negro man.

I give unto my son Timothy and my daughters Sarah, Rebecca and Elizabeth, £100 each, to be paid after the decease of my wife £12 10s. annually.

My will is that my books shall be divided among my children, their mother taking her part first.

My will is and I give unto the First Church in Reading £10 for the church's use. I give unto the Rev. Wm. Hobby £5, and £5 to the deacons of the First Church, to distribute the same to the poor.

Proved before Judge Remington, Dec. 10, 1744. (See Middlesex Probate Records, vol. 22, p. 754.)

Sarah, widow of John Pratt,[3] died seven years after him, and left, according to an inventory of her estate, a camlet riding hood, velvet hood, linsey woolsey coat, short silk apron, silk gloves, crape gown, glow shoes [? galoshes], silver buckles, and other articles amounting to £95 10*s.* 8*d.*

April 13, 1753, John Pratt,[4] of Medfield, made a Will giving to his wife Hannah a dower of housing, lands, stock, and other property.

To his son John[5] he gave half of his wearing apparel, cane, silver shoe buckles, and other valuables.

To his son Jesse[5] he gave all his buildings, except what had been conveyed to his wife, and lands in Dedham, Medfield, Walpole and Medway.

To his daughter Elizabeth[5] he gave £40 and the indoor movables belonging to him in Reading.

To the heirs of Sarah Wright £40.

To Lemuel Sanders, son of his daughter Mehitable,[5] £26.

An inventory of property belonging to John Pratt[4] amounted to £663 8*s.* 1*d.*

Dec. 18, 1754, Hannah Pratt, widow of Deacon John Pratt,[4] late of Medfield, made a Will giving to her daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Pratt, all her real estate.

To her son-in-law, John Pratt,[5] of Reading, she gave a debt due her from him out of the estate of her brother Edward Pratt,[4] deceased.

To her son-in-law, Jesse Pratt,[5] she gave a cow, silver spoons, &c.

To the children of her daughter-in-law, Sarah Wright, £6.

To Lemuel Sanders, son of her daughter-in-law, Mehitable, she gave a small dower.

To the children of her uncle Joseph Wright of Bellingham, she willed a portion.

To the poor of the town of Medfield she gave her wearing apparel not before disposed of.

From the above it appears that John Pratt[4] was deacon of the church, and that he had a son John Pratt,[5] who resided then at Reading.

John Pratt[5] appears to have removed to New Ipswich, N. H., in 1767, and settled in the west part of the town. He had several children. He died in 1799, aged 75, and his wife in 1812, aged 88.

Lieut. John Pratt,[6] son of John,[5] moved to New Ipswich, N. H., in 1785. He lived on the place of his father, now owned by the town and used as an almshouse. He was very firm in his opinions when once formed; was an energetic farmer, and became quite wealthy. He received a good education for the times, and was much employed in town business. He died Feb. 4, 1816, aged 67, and his wife Hannah four days after. They left no children; but Pratt's Mountain and Pratt's Pond perpetuate the name.

The house of Lieut. John Pratt[6] was burned in 1806, and a child by the name of Wheeler, three years old, perished in the flames. The mother and two others saved themselves by jumping from the chamber window, egress through the door being impossible. Mr. Pratt broke another window, and through it drew his aged mother. Every thing pertaining to the house was lost.

Jesse Pratt,[5] second son of John Pratt,[4] made his Will in 1770, giving the improvement of one-third of his property to his wife Abigail, and dividing the residue equally among his sons Jesse, Shubael, John, Simeon, and his daughter Abigail.

John Pratt,[6] son of Jesse Pratt,[5] became a physician in Weston, and he appears to have died single, for his property was given to his brother Simeon and his sister Abigail, both residents of Medfield.

Samuel Pratt,[4] second son of John Pratt,[3] was a blacksmith by trade, lived in Reading, and died intestate in the year 1734, leaving a son Samuel,[5] aged 15, a son Daniel,[5] aged 10, a son Ephraim,[5] aged 7 years, and a daughter Joanna,[5] named for her mother.

On settlement of the estate, April 23, 1741, the widow's thirds were first set off, and the residue of the property given to the eldest son Samuel,[5] he paying out to his brothers Daniel and Ephraim and his sister Joanna £14 15*s.* 9*d.* before the 25th of April, 1745.

According to an inventory of the estate taken March 17, 1734, the stock consisted of

	£	s.	d.
One Horse, prized at	5	00	0
White faced Cow	7	00	0
Black Cow	6	00	0
Old Cow	4	00	0
Heifer	5	00	0
Six Sheep	5	00	0
Four Sheep and Lambs	4	2	6

The homestead consisted of 35 acres, with house and barn thereon prized at £260; Six acres of meadow land bought of John Eaton, £60.

Samuel Pratt[5] learned the trade of a blacksmith, and occupied the shop of his father, Samuel Pratt,[4] who, we have before said followed that occupation.

Daniel Pratt,[5] second son of Samuel Pratt,[4] lived about half a mile south of the old homestead. He was a joiner by trade. In his will made Jan. 24, 1795, he gave his wife Ruth Pratt the improvement of the west end of his house, a cow, 60 pounds of good beef and pork, 1 barrel of cider, 6 pounds of flax, 3 pounds of wool, and wood for the fire, all to be provided annually during her natural life.

To his eldest son Daniel,[6] he gave the farm, buildings, and also half his joiner tools. To his son Edward he gave £40. To his daughters, Mehitable Green, Rebecca Mason, and Sarah Upton, he gave 5*s.* each, and to daughter Eunice £16. His wearing apparel was divided equally among his four sons, and his household furniture equally among his four daughters.

The landed property of Daniel Pratt,[5] consisting of about 65 acres was prized at £533, 19*s.*, and his personal property at £98, 19*s.*, 9*d.*

Edward Pratt,[6] second son of Daniel Pratt,[5] of Reading, removed to the town of Temple, N. H., where he purchased a farm and reared a family of children. Daniel Pratt,[7] the fourth child of Edward Pratt, was born July 20, 1799. He received a common school education in District No. 4 of his native place, working on the farm till the age of 16. Then he went to learn the carpenter's trade. Having served his time at the business, he went, in 1819, to Savannah, Georgia, and labored at his trade. Subsequently he removed to Clinton, Geo., and there engaged in the manufacture of cotton gins, with Mr. Samuel Griswold. In 1833 he removed to Autauga Co., Ala., and took up a large tract of land on a branch of the Alabama River, fifteen miles from Montgomery. Here he built a splendid mansion, in front of which is a beautiful lake, and in the rear a vineyard. His workshops for mechanical purposes are spacious and splendid as the Crystal Palace. In connection with

these works, and for the accommodation of his mechanics, he has built up a village, almost a city, called Prattsville. So prosperous has this establishment been in all its operations, that in 1858, business to the amount of $587,000, was done there principally in the manufacture of cotton gins. We have said before, what we suppose will generally be admitted, that the Hon. Daniel Pratt is the most distinguished man of the family; and indeed there are but few men in the country that excel him in the sphere he has marked out and chosen to pursue.

Ephraim,[5] the youngest son of Samuel,[4] was a tanner, and lived a mile north of North Reading meeting-house. His wife's name was Phebe. They had two sons and nine daughters, all of whom lived to adult age. He was not only a tanner but a soldier. In this latter capacity he served in the French War at Ticonderoga in 1756–8. Tradition says that when the Revolutionary War broke out, he with his eldest son joined the minute men, and during the night preceding the battle of Lexington the captain of the company galloped into the yard in front of his house and cried out in a stentorian voice, — "Stand to your arms! *Stand to your arms!* STAND TO YOUR ARMS!"

The father and oldest son arose, picked their flints, saw that the powder was dry in the pan and hastened to the field of strife, and from the toils and dangers of that conflict returned in safety. Being promoted to the office of Lieutenant in the Continental army, he went again to Ticonderoga, on Lake Champlain, in 1776, where he served also in the capacity of Quartermaster. While discharging the arduous duties of these two offices in the fort, he was taken with the small pox. Being removed to the hospital on the shore of the beautiful Lake George, he died, far from home and friends, oppressed in mind, we may well suppose, with deep solicitude for

his numerous household speedily to be left destitute of a protector and head.

Dying suddenly and away from home, Lieut. Ephraim Pratt left no Will. Commissioners appointed by the Court appraised the homestead containing 46 acres of land with buildings thereon at £260; woodland in Andover, £48.

Nov. 26, 1776, an order was issued, setting off the widow's thirds, when she received with her portion of the land, the west end of the house and barn.

Jan. 3, 1781, the residue of the estate, aside from the widow's portion, was settled upon the eldest son Ephraim,[6] on condition that he should pay out to his brothers and sisters, — viz., Phebe, Anna, Samuel, Benjamin, Sarah, Rhoda, Chloe, Polly, Betsey, Lydia and Tamar, — £14 8*s.* 9*d.* before the 3d of January, 1784.

The widow died about eight years after her husband.

Nov. 30, 1784, commissioners gave the dower of Phebe Pratt, late widow of Lieut. Ephraim Pratt, to the eldest son, Ephraim,[6] on his paying out to each brother and sister £3 11*s.* 2*d.*

Subsequently to the death of his father, Benjamin Pratt[6] went to reside with his uncle Samuel,[5] at his grandfather's homestead.

Samuel Pratt[5] died without Will or children, and commissioners were appointed who set off to Hannah Pratt, his widow, one-half of the estate, giving her the west end of the house, to the middle of the chimney, the east end of the barn, privilege in the south yard and wood house, and the well to be used in common. Also, 17 acres of land west of the road, valued at £72 4*s.* 7*d.*; 9 acres of land east of the road, valued at £18 11*s.*; 5 acres of Beard's meadow, £20; and a wood lot valued at £6 2*s.* 6*d.*

The commissioners report 'with regard to the other half of the estate, that the deceased, Samuel Pratt, did agree with Benjamin Pratt, when he came to live with him, that if he did not settle his

estate upon him upon certain conditions, that on the failure thereof he should have £13 6*s.* 8*d.* lawful money, yearly, every year, so long as he lived with him in service, and the heirs being sensible that it was the design of the deceased that the said Benjamin Pratt should inherit the estate after his death and that of his wife, it appears to be just to us that the other half of the estate be settled upon the said Benjamin Pratt,' and the court thus decided.

There were then 49 acres of land belonging to the estate, which, with the buildings, were appraised at £234 4*s.* 3*d.*

The account of Benjamin Pratt, administrator of the estate, was allowed June 4, 1783.

Benjamin Pratt[6] continued to reside on the place thus left him more than half a century, and there he died June 17, 1842, aged 84. An obituary published at the time says: —

He had been the husband of two wives, — one survives to mourn his loss; he was the father of thirteen children, had fifty-six grand-children, and forty-eight great-grand-children — the whole number of his descendants being one hundred and seventeen. As public officer of the town of Reading, he acted in different capacities for more than twenty years; and as deacon of the Congregational Church, more than forty. During the Revolutionary War he served as a soldier in Rhode Island, and was present at the battle of White Plains. After he withdrew from the active scenes of life, a cloud of darkness obscured the brightness of his Christian hope till within a few days of his exit, when some light beamed upon his mind and illumined his future prospects. His death was quiet as the repose of an infant. On the morning of the 17th, and within sound of the cannon which summoned the thronged multitudes to that proud eminence, Bunker's Hill, at the laying of the cap stone, he sunk into silent slumbers, which continued undisturbed till the thinned band of Revolutionary comrades were dispersing from the scene, and then he ceased to breathe. From the frequent allusion which he made to the occasion during his illness, it almost

seems as if God's appointed time and that of his own choice (if indeed he had any) coincided. And then how select the hour for a Christian to die! at the setting of the summer's sun on Saturday evening, — the very time at which, during a long life of activity, he had been accustomed to lay aside all secular employments to prepare for the holy duties of the approaching Sabbath. "And I heard a voice from heaven saying, Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord."

INDEX.

I. — PRATT: CHRISTIAN NAMES.

No attempt is made in the following list to distinguish between different individuals having the same Christian name. Names in the Appendix are not given here.

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